

Edinburgh Refugee Sponsorship Circle

Scotland · Charity number SC050349

Details

Status	Active
Legal form	SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation)
Registered	2020-07-30
Register	View on the OSCR register

Contact

Address
308 Ferry Road
Edinburgh
EH5 3NP

Activities

Activities: 'It carries out activities or services itself'

Purposes: 'the advancement of education', 'the advancement of citizenship or community development', 'the advancement of human rights, conflict resolution or reconciliation', 'the relief of those in need by reason of age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage'

What the charity does: We started ERSC to help families fleeing conflict zones resettle in Edinburgh through the Community Sponsorship Scheme (CSS). In summary, our objectives are to: Ensure that families arriving through the CSS and other refugees and asylum seekers are provided with the appropriate services. Promote the advancement of citizenship by bringing diverse communities together, establishing friendships and strengthening support networks for refugees, asylum seekers and those who support them. Promote the advancement of human rights, conflict resolution and reconciliation by working with local councils, other community groups and individuals to advocate for the rights of refugees and asylum seekers around the world. and Educate communities of the plight of refugees and asylum seekers and raise awareness of the United Kingdom Home Office's CSS to empower other communities to take part in the CSS.

Beneficiaries: 'Other defined groups'

Objectives: The sponsorship and provision of support to refugees and asylum seekers in Edinburgh, and more broadly the United Kingdom, by operating as a coordination and action network: To relieve refugees and asylum seekers in need as a result of displacement by working with local councils, individuals and other relevant organisations to ensure that those arriving under the United Kingdom Home Office's Community Sponsorship Scheme and other refugees and asylum seekers in the United Kingdom are provided with the appropriate services. To promote the advancement of citizenship or community development through bringing diverse communities together, establishing friendships and strengthening support networks for refugees, asylum seekers and those who support them in Edinburgh and more broadly the United Kingdom. To promote the advancement of human rights, conflict resolution and reconciliation by working with local councils, other community groups and individuals to advocate for the rights of refugees and asylum seekers

around the world, and to support refugees and asylum seekers within the Edinburgh community and more broadly the United Kingdom who have been victims of human rights abuses. To advance the education of communities in the United Kingdom of the plight of refugees and asylum seekers and raise awareness of the United Kingdom Home Office's Community Sponsorship Scheme by empowering communities in Edinburgh and more broadly the United Kingdom to take part in the Community Sponsorship Scheme.

Geography

- **Main operating location:** City of Edinburgh
- **Geographical spread:** Wider, but within one local authority area

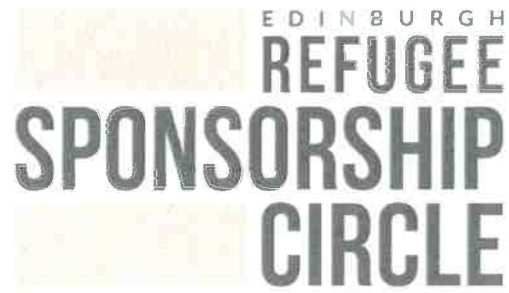
Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-06-30	£30,828	£9,732	-	0
2024-06-30	£8,744	£3,950	-	0
2023-06-30	£4,106	£9,679	-	0
2022-06-30	£17,704	£14,551	-	0
2021-06-30	£12,342	£3,462	-	0

Edinburgh Refugee Sponsorship Circle

Scotland - Charity number SC050349

Accounts



Edinburgh Refugee Sponsorship Circle

Trustees' Annual Report

1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

Charity Information

Charity name	Edinburgh Refugee Sponsorship Circle
Scottish Charity Number	SC050349
Address	308 Ferry Road Edinburgh
Postcode	EH5 3NP
Email address	hello@refugeesponsorshipcircle.org
Website	https://www.refugeesponsorshipcircle.org/
Instagram	https://www.instagram.com/edinsponsorcircle/

Charity Trustees

Trustee name	Date joined the Board	Officebearer
Sarah Story	July 2020	Co-chairperson
Muhanad Al Jama	July 2020	Co-chairperson
Fae Gerlach	October 2020	Co-chairperson
Nicole Nadler	Appointed 30 October 2022 (resigned Apr 25)	Co-secretary
Gina Belk	Appointed 30 April 2023	Co-chairperson
Jamie Gracie	Appointed December 2023	Treasurer
Rania Qussasi	Appointed December 2024	Trustee
Annette Gilchrist	Appointed June 2025	Trustee
Susan Swindells	Appointed June 2025	Trustee

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Introduction

Edinburgh Refugee Sponsorship Circle (“ERSC”)’s Board of Trustees is excited to report on our fifth year as a charity. Building on the strength of our first four years as a charity, the financial year 2024-25 has been another busy period as detailed further in our “Achievements and performance” section below. ERSC has a number of ambitious and wide reaching objectives, and we continue to be focused on resettling refugee families to Edinburgh, supporting those we have welcomed in the past, and raising awareness of the UK Community Sponsorship Scheme.

The Board of Trustees would like to thank all of our Members, volunteers and donors for helping us achieve so much in the charity’s reporting period.

Strategic Report

Objectives and activities

We started ERSC to help families fleeing conflict zones resettle in Edinburgh through the Community Sponsorship Scheme. Our organisational objectives go beyond this aim and are set out in our Constitution. In summary, our objectives are to:

1. ensure that families arriving through the Community Sponsorship Scheme and other refugees and asylum seekers are provided with the appropriate services;
2. promote the advancement of citizenship by bringing diverse communities together, establishing friendships and strengthening support networks for refugees, asylum seekers and those who support them;
3. promote the advancement of human rights, conflict resolution and reconciliation by working with local councils, other community

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groups and individuals to advocate for the rights of refugees and asylum seekers around the world; and

4. educate communities of the plight of refugees and asylum seekers and raise awareness of the United Kingdom Home Office's Community Sponsorship Scheme to empower other communities to take part in the Community Sponsorship Scheme.

This year we have continued to address these ambitious objectives by continuing to support those we have resettled. To become a Community Sponsor, the Home Office require groups to:

- demonstrate that they have personnel with sufficient skills and experience to support a resettled family;
- demonstrate that they have sufficient financial resources to support a resettled family (a minimum £9000 per family);
- find and secure affordable housing;
- obtain consent from local councils and the police service; and
- develop a credible plan for supporting that family.

In September 2021, the first family arrived in Edinburgh following months of preparation. There was a strong support network waiting for the family in Edinburgh to assist with: setting up their home, registration with local schools, doctors, dentists and JobCentre, English classes, and general support.

In February 2023, the second family arrived in Edinburgh, leading on from the success of the first resettlement and implementing improvements from reflection on this process.

In March 2025, another individual arrived in Edinburgh and was supported by a new motivated volunteer network. Another successful resettlement and valuable addition to our growing community.

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We continued to run fundraising events which also provide the opportunity for us to raise awareness of current refugee crises and promote the Community Sponsorship Scheme. We have built strong relationships with groups like STAR Edinburgh and Vegware, who are supporting us with regular funds.

Our objectives state that we will raise awareness of the scheme within Scotland and more broadly the UK. In the reporting period, ERSC has played an important role in bringing the Community Sponsorship Scheme to the attention of many Scottish communities. In particular, we have become the Lead Sponsor for a newly established Community Sponsorship group in Glasgow.

ERSC is also a member of the Community Sponsorship Alliance UK (CSA UK), which is independent, grass-rooted, hands-on, strategists, researchers, experts by experience, community mobilisers, educationalists, entrepreneurs; and experienced in the Community Sponsorship way of welcome that many of us have been involved with since the birth of the scheme in 2016. Our director, Fae, is also co-chair of the Edinburgh New Scots Integration Network on behalf of ERSC.

We have played a key role in supporting and advising the International Rescue Committee (IRC) who have now taken the lead to support Community Sponsorship groups throughout the country.

Achievements and performance

Family 1

Family 1 has been well and continued to be actively involved in our fundraising initiatives and community events. We have continued to support their children through providing tutors where needed and supporting with Duke of Edinburgh Awards as well as with info about college courses.

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Family 2

Family 2 have settled in well and have celebrated their 2 year anniversary in Edinburgh. ERSC volunteers are actively engaged in language, health and social support and we have built a trusted relationship with both family members. A focus of this year has been supporting the family through the strenuous process of accessing the right benefits and with supporting the younger family member into education and employment in a trauma informed and sustainable way.

Family 3

We were delighted to be successful with our third resettlement. We welcomed a woman from Burundi in March 2025 and, shortly after, included her friend who had arrived previously through the Council, into our support.

Volunteers

We are now a group of 37 volunteers. Every single volunteer has brought incredible skills, enthusiasm and commitment to supporting the families we welcomed and the wider organisation. We are particularly grateful for the many volunteers with lived expertise giving us their time and invaluable insight and experience.

We are in awe of the diversity in backgrounds and skills that volunteers bring to our organisation and are particularly happy about the positive feedback and the continuous engagement of volunteers who have moved away via for example our grant-making sub group.

Fundraising and grants

Our previously mentioned grant team has been working tirelessly to secure us additional financial support via grants. The monthly grant from Vegware is particularly useful as it is unrestricted funding allowing us to fill any support gaps, focus on organisational development and organise celebratory events.

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We were delighted to hear that this grant was extended for another year. Our dedicated fundraising team has organised a number of fundraising events including at the Colony of Artists weekend. This year we have been privileged to partner more closely with Student Action for Refugees, who have been running a number of fundraising activities for us.

We are unable to properly express how incredible our Members, volunteers and community have been in supporting us throughout the last four years. As a community and volunteer driven organisation, we rely on people’s generosity of time, money and expertise; something that we never lacked.

What's next?

We remain committed to supporting all families in a person-centred, trauma-informed and community-powered way. As a Community Sponsorship group our main objective and commitment remains to the continuous resettlement and support of refugee families and individuals in Edinburgh.

We look forward to another arrival of an individual - our fourth resettlement - in August 2025.

We furthermore look forward to establishing the ERSC family committee, a co-production group of representatives of ERSC-sponsored families initially beginning in Edinburgh, aimed at sharing best practice and informing our strategic planning.

As a member of CSA UK we are continuously involved in informing wider Community Sponsorship related policy-making and will continue to advocate for human rights, trust in Community, appropriate support and the Scottish perspective.

We have recently become the Lead Sponsor for a Community Sponsorship group in Glasgow. We are looking forward to supporting them in their journey.

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Principal risks & uncertainties

The Board is aware of a number of key risks and uncertainties which guide our decision-making and planning for the future.

The Board is monitoring the costs of living in the UK and the impact this will have on a refugee family relying entirely on benefits.

The Board is conscious of a number of other risks that could affect our activities and the level of support we can provide. These risks include:

- the availability of Arabic speakers and speakers of other community languages to provide crucial support to the family,
- lack of availability of our experienced Members and volunteers to provide assistance in a wide range of areas;
- the availability of housing;
- the future of the Community Sponsorship Scheme;
- the willingness of the community to continue donating to our cause.

The Board is aware that there are a range of uncertainties that exist with each new family being resettled. Various levels and types of support are needed for different families which makes it difficult to plan and resource for each family at the outset. However we are confident that, as we continue to build a strong network of volunteers and Members, we will be able to devise contingencies and address future challenges.

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Financial Review

During the reporting period our activities generated receipts of £30,828. The sources of these funds are summarised below:

- Donations - £25,325
- Grants - £2,400
- Receipts from other charitable activities - £3,103

Statement of the charity's policy on reserves

It is our policy to maintain funds at a level sufficient to cover administration of the charity.

Our intended use of reserves include:

- Spending on unforeseen emergencies or other unexpected needs. For example, unexpected charges/fees that a resettled family might need to pay urgently.
- Planned commitments which may need higher levels of reserves.
- Funds to allow for social activities that further the charity's objectives. For example a welcome gathering or tour of the city upon arrival of a family being resettled.
- Overheads for fundraising events, such as venue hire and food costs.

Details of any surplus

The significant surplus of funds reported in the period is a result of two major donations received from Failte (due to a realignment of their delivery in Scotland) and Foundation Scotland (advance provision to support a further resettlement in 2026). This will allow us to move forward with further resettlements in the future once we have sufficient referrals in place and volunteer teams ready to support this.

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Donated facilities and services

As part of our Chuffed fundraiser, there were a number of services that our Members and volunteers provided as “Perks” to donors.

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Structure, Governance and Management

Organisational structure

ERSC is a two-tier SCIO (table 2). ERSC is governed by its constitution which was submitted to OSCR along with the application for registration as a charity in June 2020.

A description of the roles and responsibilities of Members and Trustees is summarised below:

Members

- Our Members have important powers under the constitution. In particular, the Members appoint the people that serve on the Board of Trustees, can direct the activities of the Board and take decisions on changes to the constitution itself.
- Membership is open to any individual (aged 16 and over) who supports the purposes of the charity. Individuals wishing to join ERSC as a member must complete an application form (which is reviewed by the Board) and undergo an onboarding process which involves an interview and character reference checks. Members are also asked to sign an agreement to comply with our Safeguarding and Data Security policies.

Trustees

- The Board of Trustees manage the activities of the organisation, including Member recruitment and controlling the financial position of the charity.
- The Board is accountable to the Members and must arrange an annual general meeting (AGM) in each year to report on the organisation's activities and accounts.
- Trustees are appointed for a term of one year and election/re-election of Trustees takes place at the AGM.

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- During the reporting period (July 2024 to June 2025) the Trustees met four times via video conference/in person. Meetings minutes were collated and were convened to discuss the financial position of the charity, approval of new members, charity processes and organisational/strategic planning. One half of trustees constitutes a quorum for decision making.

Members and Trustees commit to give their time and expertise freely and no remuneration was paid during this reporting period. There were no conflicts of interest raised during this reporting period.

We are also fortunate to have the help of volunteers that help us with our fundraising activities. Throughout the year they have supplied our stalls with baking, crafts and much more, as well as helped to coordinate our fundraising efforts. They are non-voting supporters of the charity who have not undergone the on-boarding process and therefore don't have access to privileged information.

Trustee recruitment and appointment

At any one time there can be a maximum of eleven Trustees.

In line with the Constitution, the Members may elect any Member to serve on the Board of Trustees at each AGM. At any time, the Board may also appoint a Member or non-member to be a Trustee, if they have specialist experience and/or skills which could assist the charity in meeting its aims. A person is not eligible to serve on the Board if they have been disqualified from being a charity trustee under the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 or they are employed by the charity.

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Auditors Report

Reference and Administrative Details

Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:

Jamie Gracie

Print name

JAMIE GRACIE

Designation


CHARITY TRUSTEE / TREASURER

Date

28/03/2026

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Edinburgh Refugee Sponsorship Circle

Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts	
Report to the trustees/members of	Edinburgh Refugee Sponsorship Circle
Registered charity number	SC050349
On the accounts of the charity for the year ended	30th June 2025
Respective responsibilities of trustees 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 ('the 2005 Act') and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006(as amended) ('the 2006 regulations') The charity 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 2005 Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.
Basis of independent examiner's statement	My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 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 accounts.
Independent examiner's statement	In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention : 1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 with accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations 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: 29 th March 2026
Name	Helen Bourquin
Relevant professional qualification	Associate member of : Association of Charity Independent Examiners (ACIE)
Address:	The Dell East End Gordon Berwickshire TD3 6JS

Edinburgh Refugee Sponsorship Circle

SC050349



Receipts and payments accounts							
For the period from	Report start date			to	Report end date		
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
	01	July	2024		30	June	2025

Section A Statement of receipts and payments

	Unrestricted to nearest £	Restricted to nearest £	Expendable to nearest £	Permanent to nearest £	Total funds to nearest £	Total funds last to nearest £
A1 Receipts						
Donations	22,825	2,500			25,325	4,271
Legacies					-	-
Grants	2,400	-			2,400	1,950
Receipts from fundraising activities					-	-
Gross trading receipts					-	-
Income from investments other than					-	-
Rents from land & buildings					-	-
Gross receipts from other charitable activities	3,103				3,103	2,523
					-	-
A1 Sub total	28,328	2,500	-	-	30,828	8,744
A2 Receipts from asset &						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets					-	-
Proceeds from sale of investments					-	-
A2 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	28,328	2,500	-	-	30,828	8,744
A3 Payments						
Expenses for fundraising activities	429				429	193
Gross trading payments					-	-
Investment management costs					-	-
Payments relating directly to charitable activities	8,671				8,671	2,506
Grants and donations	-				-	661
Governance costs:					-	-
Audit / independent examination	150				150	130
Preparation of annual accounts					-	-
Legal costs	482				482	461
Other					-	-
					-	-
A3 Sub total	9,732	-	-	-	9,732	3,951
A4 Payments relating to asset and						
Purchases of fixed assets					-	-
Purchase of investments					-	-
A4 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	9,732	-	-	-	9,732	3,951
Net receipts / (payments)	18,596	2,500	-	-	21,096	4,793
A5 Transfers to / (from) funds						
					-	-
Surplus / (deficit) for year	18,596	2,500	-	-	21,096	4,793

Section B Statement of balances

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Expendable endowment funds	Permanent endowment funds	Total current period	Total last period
		to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash and bank balances at start of year	11,254				11,254	6,461
	Surplus / (deficit) shown on receipts and payments account	18,596	2,500			21,096	4,793
						-	
						-	
	Cash and bank balances at end of year	29,850	2,500	-	-	32,350	11,254
	(Agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))						



B2 Investments	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Market valuation	Last year
			to nearest £	to nearest £
		Total	-	-

B3 Other assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (if available)	Current value (if available)	Last year
			to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
		Total	-	-	-

B4 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due	Last year
			to nearest £	to nearest £
		Total	-	-

B5 Contingent liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due	Last year
			to nearest £	to nearest £
		Total	-	-

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Fae Mira Gerlach	24 March 2026
	JAMIE GRACIE	28/03/26

Section C Notes to the Accounts

C1 Nature and purpose of funds (may be stated on analysis of funds worksheets)

Funds held by Edinburgh Refugee Sponsorship Circle (ERSC) are donations and grants received through fundraising activities in order to sponsor and resettle refugee families into Edinburgh through the UK Government's Community Sponsorship Scheme. The UK Government requires that sponsorship groups, such as ERSC, fundraise at least £9,000 prior to being given permission to apply as a sponsor. ERSC raises funds above £9,000 to assist in covering fundraising activity overheads, cover governance costs (such as Public Liability Insurance and Independent Examination fees), and cover any unforeseen emergencies that arise in connection with charitable activities.

C2 Grants

Type of activity or project supported	Individual / institution	Number of grants made	£
Total			-

C3a Trustee remuneration

If no remuneration was paid during the period to any charity trustee or person connected to a trustee cross this box (otherwise complete section 3b)	X
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C3b Trustee remuneration - details

Authority under which paid	£

C4a Trustee expenses

If no expenses were paid to any charity trustee during the period then cross this box (otherwise complete section 4b)	X
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C4b Trustee expenses - details

	Number of trustees	£

C5 Transactions with trustees and connected persons

Nature of relationship	Nature of transaction	Transaction	Balance

C6 Other information

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Edinburgh Refugee Sponsorship Circle

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Additional analysis (1)

Analysis of receipts and payments

1 Donations

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
Faite Edinburgh	11,796				11,796	-
Foundation Scotland	9,000				9,000	
Co-op Small Charities	1,000				1,000	-
The Small Fund	-	2,500			2,500	-
Reggae Got Soul/Leith Depot	370				370	-
Supper Club	-				-	540
Chuffed	659				659	1,862
Lush	-				-	404
Edinburgh Bookshop	-				-	669
CAF	-				-	781
Direct Donations	-				-	15
	-				-	-
Total	22,825	2,500	-	-	25,325	4,271

2 Grants

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
Vegware Community Fund	1,200	-	1,200	1,200
Edinburgh University	1,200	-	1,200	500
Confidential	-	-	-	250
	-	-	-	-
Total	2,400	-	2,400	1,950

3 Gross receipts from other charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
Home Office payments	2,897				2,897	1,673
Police Box	207				207	850
Gift Aid payments	-				-	-
Life drawing fundraising event	-				-	-
	-				-	-
	-				-	-
Total	3,103	-	-	-	3,103	2,523

4 Payments relating directly to charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
Family 1	-				-	857
Family 2	800				800	1,252
Family 3	4,658				4,658	-
Family 4	48				48	-
Community	126				126	-
Activities	2,560				2,560	-
General overheads	479				479	70
Supper Club	-				-	163
Charity and volunteer events	-				-	164
	-				-	-
	-				-	-
	-				-	-
	-				-	-
Total	8,671	-	-	-	8,671	2,506

reference error

reference error

Additional analysis (2)

5 Breakdown of unrestricted funds

	Unrestricted fund 1 - asset items of fund income	Unrestricted fund 2 - asset items of fund income	Unrestricted fund 3 - asset items of fund income	Unrestricted fund 4 - asset items of fund income	Total unrestricted funds	Total unrestricted funds last period
Receipts						
Donations	22,825				22,825	4,271
Legacies					-	
Grants	2,400				2,400	1,700
Receipts from fundraising activities					-	-
Gross trading receipts					-	-
buildings					-	-
Rents from land & buildings					-	-
Gross receipts from other charitable activities	3,103				3,103	2,523
Sub total	28,328	-	-	-	28,328	8,494
Receipts from asset & investment sales						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets					-	
Proceeds from sale of investments					-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	28,328	-	-	-	28,328	8,494
Payments						
Expenses for fundraising activities	429				429	193
Gross trading payments					-	
Investment management costs					-	
Payments relating directly to charitable activities	8,671				8,671	2,505
Grants and donations	-				-	411
Governance costs:						
Audit / independent examination	150				150	130
Preparation of annual accounts					-	
Legal costs	482				482	461
Sub total	9,732	-	-	-	9,732	3,701
Payments relating to asset and investment movements						
Purchases of fixed assets					-	
Purchase of investments					-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	9,732	-	-	-	9,732	3,701
Net receipts / (payments)	18,596	-	-	-	18,596	4,793
Transfers to / (from) funds					-	
Surplus / (deficit) for year	18,596	-	-	-	18,596	4,793

Nature and purpose of funds

Edinburgh Refugee Sponsorship Circle

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Additional analysis (3)

6 Breakdown of restricted funds

	Restricted fund 1 - gifts from of fund 00004	Restricted fund 2 - other gifts of fund 00004	Restricted fund 3 - other gifts of fund 00004	Restricted fund 4 - other gifts of fund 00004	Total restricted funds	Total restricted funds last period
Receipts						
Donations	2,500				2,500	
Legacies					-	
Grants	-				-	250
Receipts from fundraising activities					-	
Gross trading receipts					-	
Income from investments other than land and buildings					-	
Rents from land & buildings					-	
Gross receipts from other charitable activities					-	
Sub total	2,500	-	-	-	2,500	250
Receipts from asset & investment sales						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets					-	
Proceeds from sale of investments					-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	2,500	-	-	-	2,500	250
Payments						
Expenses for fundraising activities					-	
Gross trading payments					-	
Investment management costs					-	
Payments relating directly to charitable activities					-	
Grants and donations	-				-	250
Governance costs:					-	
Audit / independent examination					-	
Preparation of annual accounts					-	
Legal costs					-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	250
Payments relating to asset and investment						
Purchases of fixed assets					-	
Purchase of investments					-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	-	-	-	-	-	250
Net receipts / (payments)	2,500	-	-	-	2,500	-
Transfers to / (from) funds					-	
Surplus / (deficit) for year	2,500	-	-	-	2,500	-

Nature and purpose of funds

Edinburgh Refugee Sponsorship Circle

Scotland - Charity number SC050349

Accounts

EDINBURGH
REFUGEE
SPONSORSHIP
CIRCLE



Edinburgh Refugee Sponsorship Circle

Trustees' Annual Report

1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024

Charity Information

Charity name	Edinburgh Refugee Sponsorship Circle
Scottish Charity Number	SC050349
Address	308 Ferry Road Edinburgh
Postcode	EH5 3NP
Website	https://www.refugeesponsorshipcircle.org/
Instagram	https://www.instagram.com/edinsponsorcircle/

Charity Trustees

Trustee name	Date joined the Board	Officebearer

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Introduction

Edinburgh Refugee Sponsorship Circle (“ERSC”)’s Board of Trustees is excited to report on our fourth year as a charity. Building on the strength of our first three years as a charity, this financial year has been another busy period as detailed further in our “Achievements and performance” section below.

ERSC has several ambitious and wide-reaching objectives, and we continue to be focused on resettling refugee families to Edinburgh, supporting those we have welcomed in the past, and raising awareness of the UK Community Sponsorship Scheme.

The Board of Trustees would like to thank all our Members, volunteers and donors for helping us achieve so much in the charity’s reporting period.

Strategic Report

Objectives and activities

We started ERSC to help families fleeing conflict zones resettle in Edinburgh through the Community Sponsorship Scheme. Our organisational objectives go beyond this aim and are set out in our Constitution. In summary, our objectives are to:

1. ensure that families arriving through the Community Sponsorship Scheme and other refugees and asylum seekers are provided with the appropriate services;
2. promote the advancement of citizenship by bringing diverse communities together, establishing friendships and strengthening support networks for refugees, asylum seekers and those who support them;
3. promote the advancement of human rights, conflict resolution and reconciliation by working with local councils, other community groups and individuals to advocate for the rights of refugees and asylum seekers around the world; and

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4. educate communities of the plight of refugees and asylum seekers and raise awareness of the United Kingdom Home Office's Community Sponsorship Scheme to empower other communities to take part in the Community Sponsorship Scheme.

This year we have continued to address these ambitious objectives by continuing to support the two families we resettled. To become a Community Sponsor, the Home Office require groups to:

- demonstrate that they have personnel with sufficient skills and experience to support a resettled family;
- demonstrate that they have sufficient financial resources to support a resettled family (a minimum £9000 per family);
- find and secure affordable housing;
- obtain consent from local councils and the police service; and
- develop a credible plan for supporting that family.

In September 2021, the first family arrived in Edinburgh following months of preparation. There was a strong support network waiting for the family in Edinburgh to assist with: setting up their home, registration with local schools, doctors, dentists and Job Centre, English classes, and general support.

In February 2023, the second family arrived in Edinburgh, again following months of preparation.

We continued to run fundraising events which also provide the opportunity for us to raise awareness of current refugee crises and promote the Community Sponsorship Scheme. We have built strong relationships with groups like STAR Edinburgh and Vegware, who are supporting us with regular funds.

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Our objectives state that we will raise awareness of the scheme within Scotland and more broadly the UK. In the reporting period, ERSC has played an important role in bringing the Community Sponsorship Scheme to the attention of many Scottish communities. We have become the Lead Sponsor for a newly established Community Sponsorship group in Glasgow.

ERSC is also a member of the Community Sponsorship Alliance UK (CSA UK), which is independent, grass-rooted, hands-on, strategists, researchers, experts by experience, community mobilisers, educationalists, entrepreneurs; and experienced in the Community Sponsorship way of welcome that many of us have been involved with since the birth of the scheme in 2016.

Achievements and performance

Family 1

Family 1 has been thriving and continued to be actively involved in our fundraising initiatives and community events. Two maths tutors have been recruited to support two of their children and most excitingly, we have been making great progress in our ambitious journey of purchasing the flat they currently live in via a Declaration of Trust in winter 2025.

Family 2

Family 2 have settled in well and are close to celebrating their 2-year anniversary in Edinburgh. ERSC volunteers are actively engaged in language, health and social support and we have built a trusted relationship with both family members.

Volunteers

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We are now a group of 37 volunteers. Every single volunteer has brought incredible skills, enthusiasm and commitment to supporting the families we welcomed and the wider organisation. We are particularly grateful for the many volunteers with lived expertise giving us their time and invaluable insight and experience.

We are in awe of the diversity in backgrounds and skills that volunteers bring to our organisation and are particularly happy about the positive feedback and the continuous engagement of volunteers who have moved away via for example our grant-making subgroup.

Fundraising and grants

Our previously mentioned grant team has been working tirelessly to secure us additional financial support via grants. The monthly grant from Vegware is particularly useful as it is unrestricted funding allowing us to fill any support gaps, focus on organisational development and organise celebratory events. We were delighted to hear that this grant was extended for another year. Our dedicated fundraising team has organised several fundraising events including at the Leith Walk Police Box and the Colony of Artists weekend.

We are unable to properly express how incredible our Members, volunteers and community have been in supporting us during our first three years. As a community and volunteer driven organisation, we rely on people's generosity of time, money and expertise; something that we never lacked during the reporting period!

What's next?

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We remain committed to supporting all families in a person-centred, trauma-informed and community-powered way. As a Community Sponsorship group our main objective, and commitment remains to the continuous resettlement and support of refugee families and individuals in Edinburgh.

We furthermore look forward to establishing the ERSC family committee, a co-production group of representatives of ERSC-sponsored families initially beginning in Edinburgh, aimed at sharing best practice and informing our strategic planning.

As a member of CSA UK we are continuously involved in informing wider Community Sponsorship related policymaking and will continue to advocate for human rights, trust in Community, appropriate support and the Scottish perspective.

We have recently become the Lead Sponsor for a Community Sponsorship group in Glasgow. We are looking forward to supporting them in their journey.

Principal risks & uncertainties

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The Board is aware of several key risks and uncertainties which guide our decision-making and planning for the future.

The Board is monitoring the costs of living in the UK and the impact this will have on a refugee family relying entirely on benefits.

The Board is conscious of a few other risks that could affect our activities and the level of support we can provide. These risks include:

- the availability of Arabic speakers and speakers of other community languages to provide crucial support to the family,
- lack of availability of our experienced Members and volunteers to help in a wide range of areas;
- the availability of housing;
- the future of the Community Sponsorship Scheme;
- the willingness of the community to continue donating to our cause.

The Board is aware that there are a range of uncertainties that exist with each new family being resettled. Various levels and types of support are needed for different families which makes it difficult to plan and resource for each family at the outset. However, we are confident that as we continue to build a strong network of volunteers and Members, we will be able to devise contingencies and address future challenges.

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Financial Review

During the reporting period our fundraising activities generated receipts of £8,494. The sources of these funds are summarised below:

- Donations - £4,271
- Grants - £1,950
- Receipts from other charitable activities - £2,523

Statement of the charity's policy on reserves

It is our policy to maintain funds at a level sufficient to cover administration of the charity.

Our intended use of reserves include:

- Spending on unforeseen emergencies or other unexpected needs. For example, unexpected charges/fees that a resettled family might need to pay urgently.
- Planned commitments which may need higher levels of reserves.
- Funds to allow for social activities that further the charity's objectives. For example, a welcome gathering or tour of the city upon arrival of a family being resettled.
- Overheads for fundraising events, such as venue hire and food costs.

Details of any surplus

The overall surplus of funds reported in the period is a result of decreased charitable expenditure due to family 2 now being resettled, and an increase in our fundraising efforts moving forward with further resettlements in the future.

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Donated facilities and services

As part of our Chuffed fundraiser, there were a number of services that our Members and volunteers provided as “Perks” to donors.

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Structure, Governance and Management

Organisational structure

ERSC is a two-tier SCIO (table 2). ERSC is governed by its constitution which was submitted to OSCR along with the application for registration as a charity in June 2020.

A description of the roles and responsibilities of Members and Trustees is summarised below:

Members

- Our Members have important powers under the constitution. In particular, the Members appoint the people that serve on the Board of Trustees, can direct the activities of the Board and take decisions on changes to the constitution itself.
- Membership is open to any individual (aged 16 and over) who supports the purposes of the charity. Individuals wishing to join ERSC as a member must complete an application form (which is reviewed by the Board) and undergo an onboarding process which involves an interview and character reference checks. Members are also asked to sign an agreement to comply with our Safeguarding and Data Security policies.

Trustees

- The Board of Trustees manage the activities of the organisation, including Member recruitment and controlling the financial position of the charity.
- The Board is accountable to the Members and must arrange an annual general meeting (AGM) in each year to report on the organisation's activities and accounts.
- Trustees are appointed for a term of one year and election/re-election of Trustees takes place at the AGM.

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- During the reporting period (July 2023 to June 2024) the Trustees met four times via video conference/in person. Meetings minutes were collated and were convened to discuss the financial position of the charity, approval of new members, charity processes and organisational/strategic planning. One half of trustees constitutes a quorum for decision making.

Members and Trustees commit to give their time and expertise freely and no remuneration was paid during this reporting period. There were no conflicts of interest raised during this reporting period.

We are also fortunate to have the help of volunteers that help us with our fundraising activities. Throughout the year they have supplied our stalls with baking, crafts and much more, as well as helped to coordinate our fundraising efforts. They are non-voting supporters of the charity who have not undergone the on-boarding process and therefore don't have access to privileged information.

Trustee recruitment and appointment

At any one time there can be a maximum of eleven Trustees.

In line with the Constitution, the Members may elect any Member to serve on the Board of Trustees at each AGM. At any time, the Board may also appoint a Member or non-member to be a Trustee, if they have specialist experience and/or skills which could assist the charity in meeting its aims. A person is not eligible to serve on the Board if they have been disqualified from being a charity trustee under the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 or they are employed by the charity.

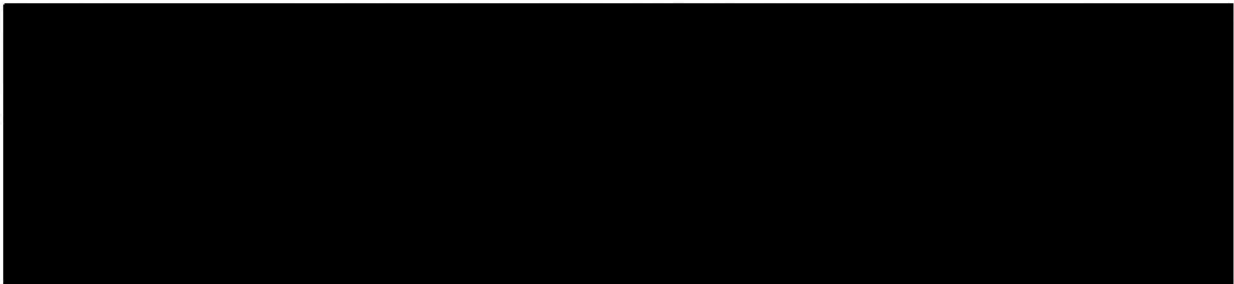
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Auditors Report

Reference and Administrative Details

Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:



Designation

CHARITY TRUSTEE / TREASURER

Date

25/03/25

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Edinburgh Refugee Sponsorship Circle

Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts	
Report to the trustees/members of	Edinburgh Refugee Sponsorship Circle
Registered charity number	SC050349
On the accounts of the charity for the year ended	30th June 2024
Respective responsibilities of trustees 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 ('the 2005 Act') and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006(as amended) ('the 2006 regulations') The charity 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 2005 Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.
Basis of independent examiner's statement	My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 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 accounts.
Independent examiner's statement	In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention : 1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 with accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations 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:	[REDACTED]
Name	
Relevant professional qualification	
Address:	

Edinburgh Refugee Sponsorship Circle

SC050349



Receipts and payments accounts						
For the period from	Year			to	Year	
	01	July	2023		30	June

Section A Statement of receipts and payments

	Unrestricted to nearest £	Restricted to nearest £	Expendable to nearest £	Permanent to nearest £	Total funds to nearest £	Total funds last to nearest £
A1 Receipts						
Donations	4,271				4,271	782
Legacies					-	
Grants	1,700	250			1,950	1,125
Receipts from fundraising activities					-	1,693
Gross trading receipts					-	
Income from investments other than					-	
Rents from land & buildings					-	
Gross receipts from other charitable	2,523				2,523	506
					-	
A1 Sub total	8,494	250	-	-	8,744	4,106
A2 Receipts from asset &						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets					-	
Proceeds from sale of investments					-	
A2 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	8,494	250	-	-	8,744	4,106
A3 Payments						
Expenses for fundraising activities	193				193	417
Gross trading payments					-	
Investment management costs					-	
Payments relating directly to charitable	2,505				2,505	8,582
Grants and donations	411	250			661	550
Governance costs:					-	
Audit / independent examination	130				130	130
Preparation of annual accounts					-	
Legal costs	461				461	
Other					-	
					-	
A3 Sub total	3,700	250	-	-	3,950	9,679
A4 Payments relating to asset and						
Purchases of fixed assets					-	
Purchase of investments					-	
A4 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	3,700	250	-	-	3,950	9,679
Net receipts / (payments)	4,793	-	-	-	4,793	(5,573)
A5 Transfers to / (from) funds						
					-	
Surplus / (deficit) for year	4,793	-	-	-	4,793	(5,573)

Section B Statement of balances

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash and bank balances at start of year	6,461				6,461	12,034
	Surplus / (deficit) shown on receipts and payments account	4,793				4,793	(5,573)
						-	
						-	
	Cash and bank balances at end of year	11,254	-	-	-	11,254	6,461

(Agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

B2 Investments	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Market valuation	Last year
			to nearest £	to nearest £
		Total	-	-

B3 Other assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (if available)	Current value (if available)	Last year
			to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
		Total	-	-	-

B4 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due	Last year
			to nearest £	to nearest £
		Total	-	-

B5 Contingent liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due	Last year
			to nearest £	to nearest £
		Total	-	-

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature

Print Name

Date of approval

[Redacted Signature and Name Area]

25/03/2025
25/03/2025

Section C Notes to the Accounts

C1 Nature and purpose of funds (may be stated on analysis of funds worksheets)

Funds held by Edinburgh Refugee Sponsorship Circle (ERSC) are donations and grants received through fundraising activities in order to sponsor and resettle refugee families into Edinburgh through the UK Government's Community Sponsorship Scheme. The UK Government requires that sponsorship groups, such as ERSC, fundraise at least £9,000 prior to being given permission to apply as a sponsor. ERSC raises funds above £9,000 to assist in covering fundraising activity overheads, cover governance costs (such as Public Liability Insurance and Independent Examination fees), and cover any unforeseen emergencies that arise in connection with charitable activities.

C2 Grants

Type of activity or project supported	Individual / institution	Number of grants made	£
Total			

C3a Trustee remuneration

If no remuneration was paid during the period to any charity trustee or person connected to a trustee cross this box (otherwise complete section 3b)	X
--	----------

C3b Trustee remuneration - details

Authority under which paid	£

C4a Trustee expenses

If no expenses were paid to any charity trustee during the period then cross this box (otherwise complete section 4b)	X
---	----------

C4b Trustee expenses - details

	Number of trustees	£

C5 Transactions with trustees and connected persons

Nature of relationship	Nature of transaction	Transaction	Balance

C6 Other information

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Edinburgh Refugee Sponsorship Circle

SC050349

Additional analysis (1)

Analysis of receipts and payments

1 Donations

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
SUP	-	-	-	-	-	-
SUP	540	-	-	-	540	-
CHU	1,862	-	-	-	1,862	497
LUSH	404	-	-	-	404	-
EDBOC	669	-	-	-	669	-
CAF	781	-	-	-	781	-
DD	15	-	-	-	15	285
	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	4,271	-	-	-	4,271	782

2 Grants

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
VEG	1,200	-	1,200	600
EDU	500	-	500	-
KAW	-	250	250	-
	-	-	-	525
Total	1,700	250	1,950	1,125

3 Gross receipts from other charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
HO	1,673	-	-	-	1,673	-
PB	850	-	-	-	850	1,590
	-	-	-	-	-	506
	-	-	-	-	-	103
	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	2,523	-	-	-	2,523	2,199

reference error

reference error

reference error

4 Payments relating directly to charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
FAM1	857	-	-	-	857	2,220
FAM2	1,252	-	-	-	1,252	5,838
GENO	70	-	-	-	70	68
SUP	163	-	-	-	163	-
VOL	164	-	-	-	164	176
	-	-	-	-	-	280
	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	2,505	-	-	-	2,505	8,582

Additional analysis (2)

5 Breakdown of unrestricted funds

					Total unrestricted funds	Total unrestricted funds last period
Receipts						
Donations	4,271				4,271	782
Legacies					-	
Grants	1,700				1,700	600
Receipts from fundraising activities					-	1,693
Gross trading receipts					-	
buildings					-	
Rents from land & buildings					-	
Gross receipts from other charitable activities	2,523				2,523	506
Sub total	8,494	-	-	-	8,494	3,581
Receipts from asset & investment sales						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets					-	
Proceeds from sale of investments					-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	8,494	-	-	-	8,494	3,581
Payments						
EXP	Expenses for fundraising activities	193			193	417
	Gross trading payments				-	
	Investment management costs				-	
PRC	Payments relating directly to charitable activities	2,505			2,505	8,582
GRSO	Grants and donations	411			411	550
	Governance costs:					
AUD	Audit / independent examination	130			130	130
	Preparation of annual accounts				-	
LEG	Legal costs	461			461	
					-	
	Sub total	3,700	-	-	3,700	9,679
Payments relating to asset and investment movements						
	Purchases of fixed assets				-	
	Purchase of investments				-	
	Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
	Total payments	3,700	-	-	3,700	9,679
	Net receipts / (payments)	4,793	-	-	4,793	(6,098)
Transfers to / (from) funds						
					-	
	Surplus / (deficit) for year	4,793	-	-	4,793	(6,098)
Nature and purpose of funds						

Edinburgh Refugee Sponsorship Circle

SC050349

Additional analysis (3)

6 Breakdown of restricted funds

	2014-15 £	2013-14 £	2012-13 £	2011-12 £	Total restricted funds	Total restricted funds last period
Receipts						
Donations					-	
Legacies					-	
Grants	250				250	525
Receipts from fundraising activities					-	
Gross trading receipts					-	
Income from investments other than land and buildings					-	
Rents from land & buildings					-	
Gross receipts from other charitable activities					-	
Sub total	250	-	-	-	250	525
Receipts from asset & investment sales						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets					-	
Proceeds from sale of investments					-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	250	-	-	-	250	525
Payments						
Expenses for fundraising activities					-	
Gross trading payments					-	
Investment management costs					-	
Payments relating directly to charitable activities					-	
Grants and donations	250				250	
Governance costs:					-	
Audit / independent examination					-	
Preparation of annual accounts					-	
Legal costs					-	
Sub total	250	-	-	-	250	-
Payments relating to asset and investment						
Purchases of fixed assets					-	
Purchase of investments					-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	250	-	-	-	250	-
Net receipts / (payments)	-	-	-	-	-	525
Transfers to / (from) funds						
Surplus / (deficit) for year	-	-	-	-	-	525
Nature and purpose of funds						