CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' annual report (including Directors' report) for the period

From: 01.04.2025 **To:** 31.03.2026

Charity name: Canterbury Welcomes Refugees

Charity registration number: 1181225

Company number: N/A

Objectives and activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	**The purposes of CWR are to relieve financial hardship, support education, training and employment related activities, preserve physical and mental health, promote social inclusion, improve conditions of life amongst refugees and displaced people and their dependants in the Canterbury area to their benefit and that of the community. These aims are to be achieved through supporting people to access housing, providing loans and grants, practical support, English language support, support to access services and advice.**
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	**CWR has provided practical assistance to support people seeking asylum, refugees resettling in Canterbury and other displaced peoples to relieve financial hardship and encourage community integration. The number of people requiring assistance has increased as more individuals and families are placed in Canterbury by the Home Office and by other local authorities. Support continues for families displaced by the Afghanistan conflict and the ongoing war in Ukraine. CWR is providing caseworker support to individuals and families placed in Canterbury who are waiting for their asylum application to be assessed and those who have been granted asylum. CWR continues to partner with Canterbury Diocese's Social Justice Network, Canterbury City Council and other organisations to support families through projects, such as the Welcome Cafe that provide space for social contact**

		and support to navigate the housing, employment, benefits, education and health systems. CWR volunteers support a women only English language and social group organised by the Social Justice Network. CWR has in-person language support by volunteers. Volunteers meet weekly with individuals for language conversation on a one-to-one basis or in very small family groups. CWR works in partnership with Canterbury Diocese and Canterbury City Council to run English classes for beginners and those who have progressed in their English. A lesson has been added for those who are pre-beginners and may have little literacy in their own language due to the lack of education, especially for women in some countries. English lessons are provided by a qualified teacher of English as Second or Other Language (ESOL), supported by volunteer classroom assistants. The Welcome Café project also includes support for employability, which are run in cooperation with staff seconded from the Job Centre. The weekly sessions support participants to seek and secure employment, including CV writing skills, writing job applications and volunteering opportunities. CWR volunteers have supported young adults to apply for volunteering and employment opportunities. If appropriate, CWR supports beneficiaries in applying for grants for essentials, such as white goods from other organisations and may in some cases administer such grants on behalf of other grant-making organisations. CWR has also partnered with Migrant Help to provide assistance with eVisa applications at Welcome Café. CWR participated in events celebrating Refugee Week.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	**The Trustees of CWR are aware of and have regard to the Charity Commission's rules and guidelines on the public benefit of the work that is carried out by CWR. This work has benefit for vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers as well as the wider community by aiming to support and facilitate social integration and community cohesion.**

Additional information (optional)
You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	**CWR has an agreed Grant-funding Policy.**

Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	**All activities by CWR are carried out by or supported by volunteers from the local community. The majority of volunteer time is spent in individual English conversation time with refugees to support language learning and community integration and in supporting the projects run with local partner organisations. Helping in this way has provided many hours of much valued support to the beneficiaries. We believe engagement of local volunteers contributes to greater community cohesion. Community engagement for the volunteers helps towards a sense of achievement and making a contribution to society. It can relieve isolation, benefit mental health and build lasting friendships. Former beneficiaries have also gone to become volunteers in the community themselves.**
Other		

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	**Continued resettlement of refugee families under the UK Government's Community Sponsorship programme. Partnership working with the local Quaker meeting to prepare a house for a community sponsorship family. Ongoing support to the families CWR has helped to resettle in Canterbury. Support to access health services, including specialist appointments as required. In partnership with others, offering English teaching at various levels of competency. Weekly English conversation sessions for individuals or small groups, that enable learners to practice their English skills in a safe environment. Supporting adults and older teenagers to access English lessons and other training that facilitate access to further and higher education and employment. Support the Ladies Only Club for English learning, arts and crafts as well as life skills, such as first aid etc run by our partner organisation. Provide support and practical assistance to Ukrainian families**

		hosted under the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

Additional information (optional)
You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

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

Financial review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	**CWR has sufficient funds to cover expenses of the third sponsored family, and the support of other resettled families. It has funds ringfenced to support the sponsorship of a third family in the coming year. Any surplus will be used to create and support partnership community projects, including the Welcome Café for English lessons and employment support as well as individual and family casework. CWR has built**

		reserves and this will put the charity in a good position to support the increasing number of displaced people in the Canterbury area.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	**The charity builds up reserves as these are required for an application to the Home Office sponsor another refugee family. A minimum of £9,000 is required for Community Sponsorship of a refugee family. CWR holds sufficient reserves to cover the sponsored family's expenses, insurance payment and other liabilities. Reserves will be carried forward and used towards sponsorship of another refugee family, families and individuals in need and to work with partner organisations to run and develop community projects, funding towards training to improve employability and English learning and further family fun days and creative projects aimed at improving mental health. Some reserves are also being carried forward to facilitate volunteer training.**
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	**£ 15,222.55**
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	**N/A**
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	**N/A**
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	**N/A**

Additional information (optional)
You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	**Individual donations, including those made through the website. Donations by other organisations, towards the work of CWR. Fundraising events when required.**
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	
Other		

Structure, governance and management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document: for example, trust deed, memorandum and articles of association etc	Para 1.25	**CIO Foundation**
How is the charity constituted? for example limited company, unincorporated association, CIO	Para 1.25	**CIO**
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	**Selected for skills set and subject to approval by Board of Trustees.**

Additional information (optional)
You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	**Requirement to familiarise themselves with the Safeguarding Policy and individual meeting of new trustee with the Designated Safeguarding Lead. Trustees attend volunteer events including updates on safeguarding and other training. Online safeguarding training. Induction into the policies and procedure of CWR.**
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	**Refugee families are supported by the CWR board of trustees, active volunteers and a larger group of supporters, including financial donors.** **CWR works in partnership with Canterbury City Council and Canterbury Diocese' Social Justice Network, East Kent Quaker Meeting as well as other groups who provide support for refugees and displaced people in the Canterbury area, such as Canterbury 4 Ukraine, Job Centre, Migrant Help and Kent Refugee Action Network (KRAN).** **CWR received advice and support from International Rescue Committee UK, an organisation funded to support Community Sponsorship groups.**
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	

Other		

Reference and administrative details

Charity name	**Canterbury Welcomes Refugees**
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	**1181225**
Charity's principal address	**Withheld**

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Dr C Powell	Lead Sponsor		Board of Trustees
2	S Powell	Project Lead		Board of Trustees
3	N Watson-Cutts	Chair of Trustees, Designated Safeguarding Lead		Board of Trustees
4	D Pecoraro	Welfare Lead		Board of Trustees
5	Hilary Adams	Treasurer		Board of Trustees
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Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name	

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (optional information)

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

The Charity's principal address is withheld due to threats being received by those opposed to the work of Canterbury Welcomes Refugees. Police reference number available.

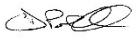
Other optional information

Declarations

The company has taken advantage of the small companies' exemption in preparing the report above.

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report (including directors' report) above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees/directors

Signature(s)	C D Powell	
Full name(s)	Dr C D Powell	
Position (for example Secretary, Chair, etc)	Trustee	
Date	02/07/2026	