Trustees' Annual Report for the period

1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026

Charity name: Sevenoaks Welcomes Refugees

Charity registration number: 1184120

Statutory Annual Report 25- 26 FINAL

1. Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	The objects of the CIO are: 1. The relief of financial hardship amongst those granted and seeking refugee status and their dependents living (temporarily or permanently) in Sevenoaks and the surrounding area, and previous beneficiaries who remain in need of support. 2. To advance the education and training of those granted and seeking refugee status and their dependents, and previous beneficiaries in need thereof, so as to advance them in life and assist them to adapt within a new community. 3. To advance the education of the public in general, including landlords and local authorities, on the issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum

		4. The provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life of those granted and seeking refugee status who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances 5. To develop the capacity and skills of the members of the socially and economically disadvantaged refugee community and those seeking refugees status within Sevenoaks and the surrounding area, and previous beneficiaries who remain in need of support, in such a way that they are better able to participate more fully in society including through gainful employment.

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	SORP reference	

Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for	Para 1.17 and 1.19	We are focused on these tasks: 1. Providing local practical support to refugee families in our area (e.g. welcoming, help with learning English, finding jobs, providing lifts, sourcing necessary household items, making small grants);

the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.		2. Building public understanding of and support for the Government's various Resettlement Schemes and refugees more generally; 3. Finding **private landlords** willing to take part in the government-funded rent payment scheme, and **hosts** for families from Ukraine. 4. Seeking to influence STC, SDC & KCC policy in order to maximise support for refugee families in our area.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	All Trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

2. Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its	Para 1.20	1. We welcomed 5 new families to the Sevenoaks District comprising 12 adults and 8 children whilst two existing beneficiary families had new babies. The total number of families we supported across the year was 65 (193 refugees). This comprised 5 families from Syria, 13 from Afghanistan and 47 from Ukraine. We supported two families (Syrian and Afghan) to achieve UK citizenship in 25 - 26. 2. We have helped to maintain the number of employed family members to around 40. 3. We raised £45k funds (-12% versus year before). £37k (-8% versus year before) was spent on making grants to Syrian, Afghan and Ukrainian

beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.		families in the various government schemes. 4. Our team of Language volunteers provided in excess of 2,000 hours of English Language Tuition over the past 12 months. 5. Our dedicated and expanded 'family teams' of volunteers continued to support the families in person when possible and remotely when necessary. 6. We continued to build our supporter network and now have a MailChimp list of over 700 supporters, of whom more than 100 have the necessary clearance to work directly with the families. 7. We continue to work in partnership with Sevenoaks Town Council for Sevenoaks as a recognised Town of Sanctuary and have close working relationships with the District and County Councils and the Government Refugee Service provider, the Refugee Council.

Additional information (optional)

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	On 10th March 2017 the group set a target of helping to get 5 refugee families housed in the SDC area within 3 years, i.e. by March 2020. By March 2026 we had exceeded this target significantly, cumulatively having supported over 8 Syrian, 16 Afghan, and at over 60Ukrainian families in the district. About a third of whom are now independent citizens. In 2026 SWR released a three year strategic plan aiming to support (at least) 3 new families move into the district each year from 2026 to 2029. We supported 5 families to move into the district in 25-26.
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	£45k was raised in the year, which while less than previous year, was in line with our targets and enabled us to continue to support the families. Fundraising highlights: Income during the year from two concerts was £6k, the Dragon Boat Race raised a further £3k. Other funds came from a number of other fundraising events (£5k) and cookbook sales (£0.6k). We continued to be generously supported by regular donors (£7k) and were fortunate to receive numerous one-off donations from individuals and organisations (£22k). The Trustees are very appreciative of all donations – of time and donated items, as well as money – and work to ensure that the

		money is put to good use in support of refugees as they resettle and build new lives in our area.
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	The charity made no investments this year.

3. Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	Income totalled £44,643 for the year and expenditure was £43,146 producing a surplus of £1,497. Spend included a further £1k provision against possible housing liabilities. Funds brought forward were £23,327, so total funds are now £24,824. All funds are held in cash at bank.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	The charity has no employees and all its funds are utilised within the terms of the constitution of the charity. There are restricted funds, £6,000, to assist with securing rental properties and covering risks associated with rent guarantees made and an operating reserve of £12,000 otherwise the funds held are free. There is an understanding that the landlords, subject to the availability of funds, may seek reimbursement of expenses of up to £1,500pa. The funds available for general use are the balance or the bank account, less the restricted funds of Landlords/housing guarantee reserves of £6,000 and

		the operating reserve of £12,000.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	See above
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	Not applicable
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	Not applicable
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	The trustees are confident that the charity is a going concern.

Additional information (optional) :

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	Fundraising from local supporters, businesses, churches, trusts and other organisations.

Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	The charity currently has no investment policy or social investment policy.

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A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	A safeguarding or cyber incident affecting the welfare of refugees or volunteers or partner organisations, and damaging the reputation of the charity. Entering financial commitments beyond the charity's ability to raise funds sustainably.

4. Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		Not applicable
Type of governing document	Para 1.25	Constitution.
How is the charity constituted?	Para 1.25	CIO
Trustee	Para	When a trustee appointment is to be made, a public

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	1.25	advert is posted inviting applications with a short personal profile. Candidates are shortlisted by the Board and the shortlisted candidates are interviewed by a panel drawn from the Board, volunteers and beneficiaries. The panel makes a recommendation to the Board which decides the final appointment.

Additional information (optional)

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	Newly appointed trustees attend a briefing from the chair and the Treasurer as soon as possible after their appointment. They are provided with the Charity Commission guidance for Trustees.
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	Seven trustees as at 31.3.26. The trustees are supported by the newly established Volunteer Leadership Team which coordinates the provision of services.
Relationship with any	Para	We partner with Sevenoaks Town Council,

related parties	1.51	Sevenoaks District Council, Kent County Council.

5. Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Sevenoaks Welcomes Refugees
Other name the charity uses	Not applicable
Registered charity number	1184120
Charity's principal address	Sevenoaks Welcomes Refugees c/o Vine Evangelical Church Hitchen Hatch Lane Sevenoaks TN13 3AT

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**

Christopher Hix	Finance lead	Retired 16th October 2025	SWR full group meeting
Humphrey Pring		Retired 14th July 2025	SWR full group meeting
David Skinner			SWR full group meeting
Donald Fleming			SWR full group meeting
Chris Salmon			SWR full group meeting
Tim Williams	Chair		SWR full group meeting
Andy Cates	Treasurer	Appointed 16th October 2025	Board of Trustees
Gaya Rajaraathinam		Appointed 14th July 2025	Board of Trustees

6. Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.
Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature	Andrew Cates
Full name	**Andrew Cates**

Position	**Trustee / Treasurer**
Date	**16 September 2026**