Hastings City of Sanctuary

Registered Charity Number 1200852

Annual Accounts

for the period

1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026

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Hastings Voluntary Action
Jackson Hall
Portland Place
Hastings
East Sussex
TN34 1QN

Hastings City of Sanctuary
Organisational information for the year ended 31 March 2026

Name of charity:	Hastings City of Sanctuary Registered Charity Number 1200852
Legal form:	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
Governing document:	Constitution (last amended 6 September 2022)
Address:	c/o Hastings voluntary Action Jackson Hall, Portland Place , Hastings TN34 1QN
Committee members:	Chair : Polly Gifford Treasurer : Julie Todd Olivia Cavanagh Jane Grimshaw Rachel Lowden
Bankers:	Lloyds Bank - PO Box 1000 Andover BX1 1LT
Independent Examiner:	Laura Dawson Finance Manager, Hastings Voluntary Action Jackson Hall, Portland Place, Hastings, TN34 1QN
Objects:	The objects of the CIO are to promote the following, for the public benefit: 1. The promotion of social inclusion for the public benefit among people who are refugees and asylum seekers, socially excluded on the grounds of their social and economic position, by promoting and/or co-ordinating services and facilities to assist them to adapt within a new community. 2. The relief of financial hardship among asylum seekers and refugees living or working in Hastings and surrounding areas by acting as an umbrella and resource for local refugee support services. 3. The advancement of the education of the public in general about the issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum. 4. The promotion of equality and diversity for the public benefit by promoting activities to foster understanding and good relations between the general public and people seeking sanctuary.
Reserves policy:	Hastings City of Sanctuary aims to keep a sum in reserve to cover unforseen debts or unrecoverable expenses. The current level deemed to be prudent is £1,500. This policy is reviewed annually.

Hastings City of Sanctuary

The Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31st March 2026

Hastings City of Sanctuary Review of the Year 2025/26

Hastings City of Sanctuary (known locally as Hastings Community of Sanctuary / HCoS) is a volunteer-run Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) committed to building a culture of welcome for people seeking sanctuary and refuge in Hastings and surrounding area. We work to raise awareness of the issues facing refugees and people seeking asylum, run collections for essential items and raise funds to support local projects.

We campaign for a fair and humane asylum system, including more safe and legal routes for people to seek asylum in the UK. Once here, we believe that people should be housed and supported in local communities and be able to work and contribute to those communities, while their claims are assessed.

HCoS grew out of community group Hastings Supports Refugees and joined the national City of Sanctuary movement in 2017. Hastings Supports Refugees now sits under the umbrella of HCoS. We work closely with other voluntary sector organisations and agencies. Key partnerships include The Refugee Buddy Project Hastings, Rother & Wealden, Hastings Museum & Art Gallery, Hastings Voluntary Action / Links Project, Hasting Borough Council and City of Sanctuary UK.

Key Activities and Highlights for 2025/26

- **Hastings Refugee Partnership Network**

In March 2025, we launched a new network for organisations that support refugees and people seeking sanctuary as part of their wider work, but who lack specialist knowledge. This was set up in response to local need, with organisations expressing a desire to meet and learn from others in similar situations, as well as ask questions of those whose work is dedicated to supporting these communities. Organisations attending the first meeting included Hastings Museum & Art Gallery, Hastings Voluntary Action, Hastings Foodbank, Warming Up the Homeless and Sustenance Food Project, alongside local schools and FE college. We were also joined by sector experts from the Refugee Buddy Project and Rother District Council and experts by experience from refugee community groups.
Through 25/26 we built on the positive feedback and enthusiasm of participants to meet regularly and stay in contact with each other, with quarterly events hosted by Hastings Museum. We also developed a resource pack with details of support organisations and useful information on the local area.

- **Refugee Week event for Links**

We worked with Hastings Voluntary Action to run an event for users of the Links Advisory Service featuring live music, creative activities and shared food. This developed into an ongoing partnership, with plans to run four events a year.

- **Orchestra From Everywhere**

We partnered with Kent based arts organisation Shiva Nova to support a concert from their migrant-led Orchestra From Everywhere, who had performed the year before at Sanctuary Festival. The event was hugely well received.

- **Refugee Week Poster Campaign**

Due to the timing of funding cycles and lack of capacity, we didn't run our signature Sanctuary Festival during Refugee Week in 2025. We did make an intervention in the public realm through a poster campaign featuring the Refugee Week theme 'Community is a Superpower'. We had posters on seafront advertising boards and online, using positive reinforcement with statistics / facts about how the Hastings community have acted with compassion.

We applied to The National Lottery Awards for All for funding for funding for Sanctuary Festival 2026 and got a positive decision in December, giving us just under £20k to support the event. Planning began in earnest in January and the festival will take place in June 2026 at Hastings Museum.

- **Hastings Supports Refugees 10th Anniversary**

We marked the 10th anniversary of the death of Alain Kurdi, which prompted the formation of Hastings Supports Refugees, with a vigil on Hastings Seafront and an article in the local media.

Ongoing Activities:

- Monthly volunteer meetings, supported by the White Rock Hotel
- Attending regional City of Sanctuary online meetings
- M Managing a storage hub for Care4Calais, to receive, sort and distribute clothing to refugees in Calais and locally around Hastings and East Sussex

Apr-25	Volunteer Meet up, attended by Cllr Yunis Smith, the council's Migrant Champion
May-25	Volunteer Meet up

Jun-25	Volunteer Meet up 18th - Refugee Week Celebration event at the Links Advisory Service 22nd - Orchestra from Everywhere concert at St John's Church 23rd - Refugee Partnership Network Meeting 2
Jul-25	Volunteer Meet Up 9th - City of Sanctuary National Conference 13th - Stall at Trans Pride
Aug-25	Volunteer Meet Up 9th - Stall at Hidden Beach Festival 23rd - Stall at Bottle Alley Art Market 24th - Joined the Hastings Pride Parade
Sep-25	Volunteer Meet Up - Our presence at events/ fesitvals during the summer has been generally positive, with lots of supportive conversations and people signing the petition and Pledge. 5th - Alan Kurdi anniversay vigil 8th - spoke at Stand Up to Racism public meeting Joined Hastings Migrant Network
Oct-25	Volunteer Meet Up 17th - Meeting with local MP Helena Dollimore 20th - Refugee Partnership Network Meeting 3 23rd - City of Sanctuary Regional Meeting
Nov-25	Volunteer Meet Up

Dec-25	Volunteer Meet Up 17th - First of our Links Advisory Service Celebration events in partnership with Hastings Voluntary Action, HCoS volunteers had made up over 100 Christmas boxes with donated gifts to give away Successful funding decision for Sanctuary Fesitval 2026 from the National Lottery Awards for All.
Jan-26	Volunteer Meet Up - contact made with Crowborough Supports Refugees who are supporting sanctuary seekers being moved into what was previously a military training camp. 26th - Hastings Migrant Network Meeting
Feb-26	Volunteer Meet Up
Mar-26	Volunteer Meet Up Fundraising campaign for Crowborough Supports Refugees (renamed SAMAS) launched 7th - Stall at International Women's Day event 30th - Hastings Migrant Network Meeting

Hastings City of Sanctuary
Receipts & Payments Account

for the period

1 April 2025 to **31 March 2026**

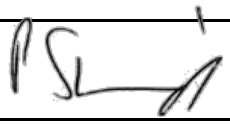
	Notes	Current Year Restricted funds	Designated funds	Unrestricted funds	Total funds	2024-2025
Receipts						
Donations and legacies		-	1,410.32	442.79	1,853.11	3,602.00
Income from charitable activities		19,910.00	-	-	19,910.00	4,195.18
Other income		-	510.00	889.47	1,399.47	1,016.42
Other trading activities		-	-	-	-	-
Investments		-	-	-	-	-
Total Receipts		19,910.00	1,920.32	1,332.26	23,162.58	8,813.60
Expenditure						
Expenditure on charitable activities		50.00	1,960.00	200.50	2,210.50	33,727.95
Other expenditure		-	380.50	2,177.54	2,558.04	570.57
Raising funds		-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditure		50.00	2,340.50	2,378.04	4,768.54	34,298.52
Net surplus (deficit)		19,860.00	(420.18)	(1,045.78)	18,394.04	(25,484.92)
Movement in funds		1,023.00	1,462.40	(2,485.40)	-	
Funds brought forward	31/3/25	859.66	(412.86)	5,545.37	5,992.17	31,477.09
Funds carried forward	31/3/26	21,742.66	629.36	2,014.19	24,386.21	5,992.17

Hastings City of Sanctuary
Statement of Assets & Liabilities
as at
31 March 2026

		Restricted Funds	Designated Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Total	2024-2025 Total
Current assets						
HCOS Account	@ 31/03/26	21,742.66	-	1,770.64	23,513.30	5,102.11
HSR Account	@ 31/03/26	-	594.67	175.25	769.92	787.07
Paypal Account	@ 31/03/26	-	34.69	68.30	102.99	102.99
		21,742.66	629.36	2,014.19	24,386.21	5,992.17
Current liabilities						
		21,742.66	629.36	2,014.19	24,386.21	5,992.17

Charity Law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which comply with the regulations set out in the Charities Act 1993. The trustess have elected to take advantage of the provisions that apply to small charities and have prepared a Receipts and Payments account and Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

Approved by the Trustees on _____ and signed on their behalf by



_____ Chair : Polly Gifford

_____ Treasurer : Julie Todd

Hastings City of Sanctuary

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2026

1 Receipts & payments accounts

Receipts and payments accounts are statements that summarise the movement of cash into and out of the charity during the financial year. In this context "cash" includes cash equivalents, for example, bank accounts where cash can be readily withdrawn to pay for debt as they become due.

2 Premises & staff

The organisation has no premises.
The organisation has no employees.

3 Trustees' remuneration

No Trustees received remmuneration this year

4 There were no related party transactions during the period.

5 Previous period comparison

The previous period's figures have been included for comparison.

6 Glossary of terms

Restricted funds: These are funds given to the charity, subject to specific restrictions set by the donor, but still within the general objects of the charity.

Designated funds: These are funds, not subject to any specific restrictions, but which the charity has decided to set aside for a specific purpose. In this case, the purpose is to earmark online fundraising to support work with refugees.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Committee of Hastings City of Sanctuary

I report on the accounts of Hastings City of Sanctuary
for the twelve month period ended 31 March 2026 which are set out on the previous pages.

Respective responsibilities of committee & examiner

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

It is my responsibility:

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

Basis of independent examiner's report

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
   - to keep accounting records in accordance with section130 of the Charities Act
   - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act

   have not been met; or
2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Laura Dawson
Finance Manager, Hastings Voluntary Action
Jackson Hall, Portland Place, Hastings, TN34 1QN

Dated: