Trustees of Furness Refugee Support Annual Report for 2025

Registered Charity Number 1201677

Registered Office
5 Ainslie Street
Ulverston
LA12 7JE

Trustees

Kim Farr, Chair from 1/1/23
Linda Wood, Vice Chair from 1/1/23
Liz Hill, Secretary from 1/1/23 to 31/12/24
John Brice, from 1/1/23, Treasurer from 1/1/23 to 31/12/23
Frankie Baker, incoming Treasurer from 1/1/24
Pamela Harper from 1/1/24 to 27/11/25
Matthew Burden from 8/9/25
Akram Al Jouri from 8/9/25
Angela Malloch from 13/3/26

Trustees meet every two months and volunteers have a monthly planning meeting. The charity has due regard to the guidance published by the Charity Commission on public benefit. Furness Refugee Support is a CIO with a constitution dated January 9th 2023 and the AGM is held in February.

Furness Refugee Support has been running since 2015 but only registered as a charity in 2023 due to a dramatic increase in workload following the standing up of two asylum hotels in Barrow by the Home Office. This meant we had to raise very much more money each month and so could no longer operate as a “Small Charity”. The original four trustees of the charity have been involved since the very early days of the group and were obvious choices to be trustees of the registered charity. Frankie Baker and Pamela Harper had been involved as volunteers for some time before becoming trustees. We need a minimum of three trustees, but In 2025 we have looked for and appointed two new trustees from September 8th 2025. We wanted one with charity experience outside Furness Refugee Support, advertised for that on facebook and have been fortunate to find Matthew Burden who is the manager of Barrow Food Bank. We also wanted one trustee with lived experience of the support provided by Furness Refugee Support, wrote to a number of longstanding refugees still living locally and were fortunate to be joined by Akram Al Jouri who came from Syria, via Lebanon with his family in March 2020. Sadly Pamela Harper died in November 2025 and we recruited Angela Malloch, who is a regular volunteer with business experience in her place.

Bankers

Barclays Bank, 1 Churchill Place, London E14 5HP
CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ.

We opened an account with CAF Bank Ltd because they would allow us to make electronic payments. We maintain the Barclays account for un-ringfenced monies and some direct debits coming from online concerts during Covid for whom we do not have contact details.

The objects of the CIO are:

- To advance the education and training of asylum seekers, those granted refugee status and those fleeing conflict and persecution and their dependents in need thereof so as to advance them in life and assist them to adapt within and contribute to a new community.
- To provide opportunities for recreation or other leisure time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life of those persons who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship, immigration status or social and economic circumstances.
- To support the physical and mental health of those granted refugee status and their dependants, asylum seekers and those fleeing conflict and persecution
- To relieve financial hardship amongst asylum seekers, those fleeing conflict and persecution and those granted refugee status and their dependents living (temporarily or permanently) in the Furness area.
- To relieve the challenge of unemployment (immediately or in the future) of those granted refugee status, those fleeing conflict and persecution and those seeking asylum in the United Kingdom, and in particular in the Furness area, by the provision of vocational and skills training, advice and support.
- To advance the education of the public in general about the issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum.

Achievements

Once again, this last year has shown very clearly how important it is for us to work in collaboration and partnership with a wide range of organisations to enable us to deliver varied and high quality support to an increasing number of people of all ages and

nationalities. At the end of 2025 the Home Office, via their contractor Serco, have 76 properties in the Barrow area and there are approximately 350 refugees and asylum seekers (including resettled families from official schemes) in the community, which is a significant increase during the year Our key delivery partners are Furness Multicultural Community Forum (FMCCF) and the Salvation Army. We also work closely with Art Gene, Penrith and Eden Refugee Network, Lakes & Mountains with Matt, Barrow Library, Westmorland and Furness Council, Happy, Healthy Together CIC, Barrow on Bikes,the Hope & Anchor, Barrow Community Garage and Cumbria Wildlife Trust. We are now supporting resettled families, Ukrainian guests (mostly women and children), asylum seekers (men on their own, women on their own and families in dispersal accommodation) and asylum seekers who have gained refugee status and stayed in the Barrow area (individuals and families). We use WhatsApp groups, our facebook pages and regular texts and emails for communicating.

Legal Service

The most significant upscaling of our services this year has been going into partnership with Penrith and Eden Refugee Network(PERN) and with funding from ourselves, PERN and Westmorland and Furness Council opening a PERN Legal and Info Service in Barrow two days a week. This offers a weekly drop in of two hours each Wednesday and then one and a half days of individual appointment to help anybody with

- Asylum support and Bail issues
- Preparing an asylum claim
- Access to the Right To Remain toolkit righttoremain.org.uk/toolkit/
- Legal advice on an asylum claim or appeal
- Family Reunion
- Finding a lawyer and lodging fresh claims

PERN Legal and Info is regulated to IAA Level 3 in Asylum and Protection (N202331531). The Service in Barrow is run at Cooke's Studios by a legal advisor, administrator and volunteer.

English Language / Education/ Support

We offer a weekly English class to women, which is in addition to the classes run by FMCCF and the Council. We feel that a women only class, in addition to the mixed classes run by other organisations, is of benefit. The English class, of between 12 and 15 learners, is planned and delivered by volunteers, the majority of whom are teachers.

We also deliver a weekly Coffee & Chat session which gives opportunities for conversation between volunteers and refugees and asylum seekers, table tennis, card games and dominoes. This is attended by up to 12 volunteers and up to 60 refugees and asylum seekers and is also an opportunity for buying bikes from the Salvation Army, referring people to Barrow on Bikes and new clothing distribution (which is an important and significant part of our support to a constantly changing asylum community). In addition, there is a monthly meal (Culture Cafe) with food cooked by refugees and asylum seekers, although we did confuse them by making an English Afternoon tea one month! Each month we organise a "Free Jumble Sale" to distribute donated kitchenware, clothes, toys and bedding and our weekly dropins give us an opportunity to hand out hardship monies, refer to the Barrow Food Bank and solve problems with travel costs to medical or Home Office meetings, The Abbey Road Baptist Church and Barrow Food Bank provide us with excellent transport for furniture items, kitchen equipment and a venue for our monthly "Free Jumble Sales" which is very supportive.

We help refugees and asylum seekers to access both English classes and other courses offered by the Council, Furness College, Adult learning and PHX training and work with organisations such as Signal Film and Media and Art Gene to put on some courses. To support the mental and physical health of asylum seekers we offer forty 24/7 gym memberships. We also support refugees settled in Barrow to learn to drive by paying for provisional licences, driving theory tests and some practical driving lessons. In addition we support resettled families with visits for conversation and targeted support for children by both volunteers who are experienced teachers and professional English tutors as required. We have also worked alongside the Library to provide laptops and tablets where helpful, especially for children at High School. The Ukrainian guests have been supported with monthly networking meetings at the Hope & Anchor in Ulverston and the provision of face to face tutors and some financial support for online learning of English for GCSE exams. Face to face tutoring for two refugee teenagers and one asylum seeking teenager was arranged in relation to English GCSEs and for two primary school aged Syrian refugees with learning difficulties until they went to High School in the autumn. Online English tutoring was also arranged for a refugee couple where the husband has a serious chronic illness.

Volunteering / Community Integration

We feel that by involving people in volunteering and Community events it helps a sense of belonging, English acquisition and community integration. It also appears likely that in the future, the Home Office will consider volunteering as a factor when deciding whether to give refugees Indefinite Leave to Remain. Over the years refugees and asylum seekers have volunteered in many ways including

- Gardening at Allotment Soup, the community allotment on Walney on Fridays
- Helping with the Mums and Tots at the Salvation Army
- Being a driver's mate for the Salvation Army collecting donations
- Litter picking and doing a marine survey for Cumbria Wildlife Trust
- Volunteering as mechanics at Barrow Community Garage
- Volunteering as a caretaker/DIY man at a local Primary School
- Helping in class at a Primary School
- Sorting donations for Cancer Care
- Mending and upcycling furniture at the Hospice Shop
- Stewarding events in Barrow like Dino Day, Dave Day and Unity Festival
- Gardening at the Quaker Meeting Place in Ulverston
- Planting flowers in the centre of Barrow
- Cooking for community meals in the Salvation Army
- Supporting social events for Vision Support
- Making food for fundraising events
- Making furniture for the community centre in Ormsgill
- Stewarding for Signal Film exhibitions and much more

Our partnership with Art Gene has been particularly successful this year and has involved a large group of people seeking asylum and a few refugees volunteering on the community allotment on Walney every Friday from March until October. At the end of the season one of the Art Gene members of staff provided 25 references for the regular attenders and the individual who had been given a part time harvesting job. We provide travel costs and clothing to reduce any barriers to volunteering.

In addition, Art Gene ran a large art and cooking project with two artists which involved many people in testing recipes, helping to produce a recipe book, making ceramic dishes, taking photographs and putting on an exhibition and two meals shared with the community.
Every year the two Eid events provide a great opportunity to bring local muslim families, refugee and asylum seeking muslim families and volunteers together for a celebration with food, music and dancing. Everyone volunteers to bring and share food and it is a great chance to meet new people.

Each summer we support FMCCF with the Unity Festival which is a public, inclusive joyous event with lots of music, activities, food and flag parade. We also encourage people to make lanterns and attend the Ulverston Lantern Parade and fireworks which is another inclusive community event.

A year ago we developed a partnership with Cumbria Wildlife Trust concerning beach cleans, and marine surveys and once again covered the travel costs to remove any barriers to volunteering. While we have had some success with this we have found it hard to engage people as the dates and times change all the time due to the tide times so we will not continue with this.

Support for Children

We like to support children in many ways. Outside of helping directly with English and IT we pay for sports clubs, school trips, gym memberships, cinema trips and holiday schemes, help with lifts for children to attend the FMCCF youth club and arrange holiday activities such as an Art in Nature family workshop in April, a Magic family workshop at Easter and a visit to the theatre.

In addition, one of our young volunteers took part in and supported the Young Leadership programme organised by FMCCF.

Women

Partnership working with Happy, Healthy Together CIC this year led to a number of courses and one day workshops being offered to refugee, asylum seeking and Ukrainian women which were very successful in terms of enjoyment, stress reduction and English practice.

Trips and Events

Trips and events can be just treats, but they often introduce people to the local area and culture as well. It is good for people to appreciate where they are living and maybe understand the history, geography and cultural activities that are usual for people in the UK. In May we took a group of men to the Lakeland Motor Museum and Donald Campbell exhibition and then for a picnic at Ford Park and a walk up Hoad.

In June 55 of us went to Muncaster Castle where the falconry displays and Weapons Hall were very popular.
In February about 20 of us went to see Black is the Colour of our Voice at Coronation Hall in Ulverston, which was very popular and throughout the year we organised countryside walks. We also arranged a family visit to Haybridge Nature Reserve in August where one of our volunteers is in charge of wildlife

surveys-this meant we were allowed to access the classroom and have a fire! All the trips and walks are very good for the mental health of refugees, asylum seekers and Ukrainian guests.

Volunteers

We have about 28 regular volunteers who visit families, move furniture, help English classes, take families to the International Supermarket in Preston, organise day trips and parties and walks, support the coffee and chat sessions, fundraise, apply for grants, attend meetings and much much more. We signpost them to training delivered by others, organise training days ourselves and have regular volunteer social events. Volunteers meet up monthly to plan delivery and communicate through facebook groups.
Sadly, this November one of our excellent volunteers and trustees, Pam Harper, died suddenly which is a huge loss. About 40 volunteers and refugees attended her funeral and the collection was for Furness Refugee Support. She will be sadly missed.

Trustees

We have six Trustees who meet up every two months. Trustees are responsible for making sure we meet our charitable objectives and the legal requirements set by the Charity Commission. This year we strengthened our trustees by recruiting a refugee with six years experience of our support and the manager of Barrow Food Bank.

Financial Review

Income is from a range of grants from Westmorland and Furness Council and other grant making bodies in addition to fundraising activities such as concerts, talks, market stalls, sponsored walks and regular donations.

The charity had £50,996 in the bank at the start of the year and £20,554 at the end of the year. Our main grant from Westmorland and Furness Council comes in May/June so we had sufficient reserves. The board recognises the importance of ensuring that sufficient unrestricted reserves are retained to maintain the activities and support for those in need. Furness Refugee Support has no staff and when the balance in the bank drops to circa £10,000, excluding restricted funds, this triggers additional fundraising activities. As part of our risk management strategy we have identified the figure of £10,000 as the point at which we have sufficient funds to continue providing a minimal service to beneficiaries for 6 months. We have no control over the numbers of refugees and asylum seekers arriving in the area and having a reasonable reserve allows us to respond to demand. We can then initiate fund raising activities and consider a temporary scaling back of some provision. We know from experience that this time frame allows us to organise events and contact key supporters. We apply regularly for grants as we are made aware of opportunities by Cumbria CVS and other organisations. All invoices and

expenses are sent to the Treasurer and electronic payments are made weekly and verified by the Chair or Vice Chair The trustees review the risks associated with running the charity and have established policies and procedures to mitigate the risks, such as carrying out DBS checks on volunteers, having risk assessments, taking out insurance and offering training opportunities for volunteers and trustees.



Kim Farr
Chair
12 October 2026

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of	Charity Name FURNESS REFUGEE SUPPORT		
On accounts for the year ended	31 DECEMBER 2025	**Charity no (if any)**	1201677
Set out on pages	3-4		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:	P Hornby	**Date:**	12.10.2026
Name:	PAUL HORNBY FCA		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS IN ENGLAND AND WALES		
Address:	J F HORNBY & CO THE TOWER, DALTONGATE BUSINESS CENTRE ULVERSTON LA12 7AJ		

Section B	Disclosure
	Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).
Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.	

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

FURNESS REFUGEE SUPPORT	120677

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	01.01.2025	To	31.12.2025

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
DONATIONS AND GRANTS	8,137	42,500	-	50,637	81,046
FUNDRAISING	1,916	-	-	1,916	1,210
REFUNDS	-	-	-	-	192
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
***Sub total** (Gross income for AR)*	10,053	42,500	-	52,553	82,448
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
BANK INTEREST	55	-	-	55	40
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	55	-	-	55	40
Total receipts	10,108	42,500	-	52,608	82,488
A3 Payments					
GRANTS AND DONATIONS PAID	250	15,504	-	15,754	250
INSURANCE	431	-	-	431	431
OFFICE COSTS	364	13	-	377	139
TRAINING	78	-	-	78	96
CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	13,839	51,362	-	65,201	43,505
BANK CHARGES	59	-	-	59	61
BOOKEEPING	240	-	-	240	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	15,261	66,879	-	82,140	44,482
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
OTHER MONETRY ASSETS	500	-	-	500	
ASSETS RETAINED FOR OWN USE	379	-	-	379	
Sub total	879	-	-	879	-
Total payments	16,140	66,879	-	83,019	44,482
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 6,032	- 24,379	-	- 30,411	38,006
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	22,038	28,927	-	50,965	12,959
Cash funds this year end	16,006	4,548	-	20,554	50,965

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

B1 Cash funds

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	BANK ACCOUNTS	16,006	4,548	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	16,006	4,548	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

B2 Other monetary assets

Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
LOANS GRANTED (INTEREST FREE)	500	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

B3 Investment assets

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
COMPUTER EQUIPMENT	UNRESRICTED	379	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
K FARR	KIM FARR	12.10.2026

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

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		-	-
		-	-

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		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
K FARR	KIM FARR	12.10.2026