

Refugee Council information



BRITISH REFUGEE COUNCIL

(Charity No. 1014576)

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2007

Refugee Council information



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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees are pleased to present their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2007.

Reference and Administrative Details

Charity number 1014576

Company number 2727514

Chief Executive and Company Secretary

Maeve Sherlock OBE
(resigned 30 September 2006)
Anna Reisenberger (interim)
(01 October 2006 to 3 May 2007)
Carol Jackson (acting)
(04 May 2007 to 28 May 2007)
Donna Covey
(appointed 29 May 2007)

Auditors

PKF (UK) LLP
Farringdon Place
20 Farringdon Road
London EC1M 3AP

Bankers

National Westminster Bank plc
1-4 Berkeley Square
London W1J 6BR

Company Secretary

Maeve Sherlock OBE
(resigned 30 September 2006)
Carol Jackson
(appointed 01 October 2007)

Solicitors

Gregory, Rowcliffe & Milners
1 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4BZ

Registered Office

240/250 Ferndale Road
London SW9 8BB

Trustees of the company

The Refugee Council Trustees serve as the directors of the company and members of the Board of Trustees. The following were members of the Board of Trustees during the year:

Douglas Board (Chair)	Co-opted	Appointed 25 October 2006
Helena Ismail (Vice-Chair)	Horn of Africa Community Group	
John Wenger (Honorary Treasurer)	Co-opted	
John Akker	Council for Assisting Refugee Academics	
Valey Cyrus Arya	Afghan Association of London	Resigned 29 June 2006
Michael Bartlet	Religious Society of Friends	
Alex da Costa	Angolan Civic Communities Alliance	
David Farnsworth	Welsh Refugee Council	Resigned 24 January 2007
Richard Foster	Co-opted	Appointed 16 April 2007
Andy Gregg	Co-opted	Resigned 2 August 2006
Julie Hollyman	Co-opted	Resigned 24 January 2007
Helen Ireland	Association of Visitors to Immigration Detainees	
Sandra Jenner	Co-opted	Appointed 19 March 2007
Keefa Kiwanuka	One World Foundation	
Afzal Mirza	Refugee Advice Centre	
Hooshang Paigir	Afghan Association of London	Appointed 24 January 2007
Maurice Wren	Asylum Aid	Appointed 24 January 2007

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Structure, Governance and Management

The British Refugee Council ("the Refugee Council") is a company limited by guarantee and is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission. The Refugee Council is a membership organisation and its governing documents are its Memorandum and Articles of Association. Organisations and individuals become members by payment of a membership subscription. All members agree to contribute £1 in the event of the charity winding up.

Appointment of Trustees

The Board of Trustees consists of up to fifteen members:

- Five are elected from Refugee Community Organisations;
- Five are elected from national and international organisations that carry out significant work with refugees; and
- The remaining five are, following a recruitment campaign, co-opted by the other Trustees because of the particular skills or experience they can bring to the work of the Board.

Trustee induction and training

All Trustees receive a full induction upon being elected or appointed to the Board of Trustees. The induction is a comprehensive overview of the work of the Refugee Council, and includes detailed information about our grant arrangements with key funders and a thorough introduction to the organisation's strategic plan, financial procedures and budget for the current financial year. Trustees also receive training on governance issues including, for example, a briefing on what constitutes a conflict of interest.

The Trustee body as a whole is kept up-to-date with legal and statutory requirements with ad hoc training as required.

Organisation

The Board of Trustees administers the charity and normally meets six times a year, with additional review meetings when required. The Resources Committee of the Board is made up of the Chair, Treasurer, Vice Chair and one or more other Trustees with relevant experience and also meets six times a year. The Resources Committee operates under specific terms of reference, with certain delegated functions from the Board of Trustees. The Board ratifies all decisions made by the Resources Committee.

Other committees may be constituted from time to time, for example to review fundraising or governance.

Day-to-day management is the responsibility of the Senior Management Team led by the Chief Executive, who is appointed by the Trustees.

Risk management

The Trustees have overall responsibility for ensuring that appropriate systems of control, financial and otherwise, exist. They are responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity, taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities and providing reasonable assurance that:

- The Refugee Council is operating efficiently and effectively;
- Its assets are safeguarded against unauthorised use or disposal;
- Proper records are maintained and financial information used internally or for publication is reliable; and
- The charity complies with relevant laws and regulations.

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The systems of internal control are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss. They include:

- The preparation of a three year Strategic Plan and an Annual Plan and Budget approved by the Board of Trustees;
- Regular review of financial and operational results by the Senior Management Team and Board of Trustees;
- A review by the Resources Committee with the external auditors of any matters raised for the attention of management;
- Delegation of authority for expenditure;
- Critical incident reporting and review procedures; and
- Contract management of funding partnerships.

As part of its management of risk, the Board of Trustees commissions reports which:

- Identify the risks which the organisation faces;
- Assess their potential impact and the likelihood of them happening; and
- Highlight the management action being taken to mitigate and manage the risks.

These are reviewed on a six-monthly basis.

Volunteer Development

Approximately 330 people volunteered their time to help us each week. This equates to nearly 65,000 hours with a value well in excess of £350,000 (estimate based on the minimum wage of £5.35 per hour).

The Trustees are grateful to all our volunteers and wish to thank them most particularly for all their work in helping to extend our services and making them more effective for service users.

Objectives, Activities and Achievements

Objectives

The objects of the charity, as defined in its governing documents, are:

- to provide relief for refugees and their dependants who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress;
- to preserve and protect the physical and mental health of refugees and their dependants;
- to advance the education of refugees and their dependants in need thereof so as to advance them in life and assist in their rehabilitation within a new community;
- to promote research into the condition of life of refugees throughout the world and ways of providing charitable relief for them and to publish the results of all such research; and
- to advance public education about the position of refugees and the situations that give rise to refugee movements.

The charity aims to deliver high quality services to refugees and asylum seekers to ensure that they fully understand their rights and responsibilities in the UK, obtain access to the legal, counselling, education and health care services they need and are able to integrate successfully into British society. The charity also aims to promote positive images of refugees and asylum seekers and ensure that the rights enshrined in national and international law are not eroded.

Activities

The Refugee Council's four major areas of activity are asylum support and refugee integration, campaigning and policy, education and training and capacity building.

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Asylum support and refugee integration (direct services to refugees and asylum seekers)

Asylum Support and Refugee Integration is at the very heart of the Refugee Council's work and consists of delivering high quality advice and support services to individuals and families at all stages of the asylum process from locations in London, West Midlands, Yorkshire and Humberside and East of England. Our induction and initial accommodation services provide help for newly arrived asylum seekers, including practical help such as accommodation, food and clothing as well as advice sessions and advocacy work. The One Stop Service provides advice to those at all stages of the asylum process and is able to help our clients to access both mainstream services and specialist support. The charity's Children's Panel works specifically with unaccompanied children, helping them to access education, training, health care and legal advice as well as providing much needed emotional support.

The Refugee Council also plays a key role in the Gateway Protection Programme, the Government's response to a UN initiative which aims to resettle refugees from various countries who have been displaced, and who have often lived in refugee camps for a number of years.

Campaigning and Policy

The Refugee Council plays a key role in challenging UK and European policies that have a detrimental effect on refugees and asylum seekers through analysis, research, information and lobbying. Much of this work involves co-ordinating with our partners in the UK and Europe and analysing the links between UK asylum policy and refugee producing situations. Through our Campaigns and Public Affairs team and our leadership of Refugee Week we seek to promote positive images of refugees and asylum seekers and to challenge hostility and ignorance, engaging with our supporters to influence UK, EU and international policy, public opinion and the media on all issues to do with asylum.

Education and Training

The Refugee Council provides information about asylum and refugee issues in a variety of media and to a wide range of different audiences – asylum seekers and refugees, advisers and community groups, voluntary and statutory service providers, academics and journalists as well as the general public. Our Information and Marketing Team also organises conferences and training courses and publishes a wide range of material in print and on-line.

Access to training and employment is vital if asylum seekers and refugees are to integrate successfully into British society. To assist refugees, the charity also runs some employment mentoring schemes, with corporate and other volunteers, and delivers English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and Basic Skills courses for refugees and asylum seekers as well as giving advice on training and employment in the UK.

Capacity Building

As the leading organisation in the sector, the Refugee Council's work extends beyond the provision of direct services to asylum seekers and refugees. We also support hundreds of local and regional organisations, including Refugee Community Organisations (RCOs) who support asylum seekers and refugees across the country. Through information, advice, training conferences, development materials and support for networking, we help them to develop their organisations and deliver their services.

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Achievements for the Year to 31 March 2007

Activities and their Impact

The Refugee Council's annual plan for 2006/07 was driven by the key strategic objectives set out in our Three Year Strategic Plan 2005-2008. While some of these directions are focussed on a single area of activity, a number include two or more activities. The key strategic directions and achievements for the year are set out below.

The Refugee Council will lead the sector in championing the rights of asylum seekers and refugees, and in developing innovative approaches that respond to their emerging needs and the needs of service providers.

- During the year, we focussed on the development of regular outreach surgeries for the One Stop Service across our four operational areas, Greater London, Yorkshire and Humberside, East of England and West Midlands. A total of ten One Stop Service outreach surgeries are now in place. These are run on a regular basis thereby improving the accessibility of our services for people who, due to their locality, physical impairment or recent changes in government policy, are unable to easily access our main regional offices in person.
- Our Children's Panel services were previously focussed primarily in the Greater London area. Advice surgeries are now delivered in nine areas around the country including Manchester, Nottingham and Peterborough, delivering one-off support and advice, with follow-up when appropriate. We have also established offices in both Birmingham and Leeds, with a total of five advisers and a service development worker.
- As well as outreach, we also offer alternative sources of advice and support. All of our four regions and the Children's Panel operate telephone advice and referral lines which are heavily utilised by clients and by advisors within the sector and mainstream providers. A further source of advice is our website, and we have now updated our regional guides to services in our main areas of operation.
- We successfully won a competitive bid process to deliver client support services under a new Gateway Protection Programme in Norwich. We are working in partnership with the Red Cross and a wider multi-agency team with local Housing, Social Services, Health and Education to support a group of refugees from Congo, who have been given refugee status. During 2006/07, we also consolidated the Gateway provision in Sheffield, giving a total of three programmes to date since 2004 with a fourth planned in 2007, and commenced the second programme in Hull. Discussions continue with other local authorities in Yorkshire and Humberside and East of England on their possible participation in the programme.
- Partnership working has been developed with a range of agencies and academic institutions to deliver services to refugees in London with mental health needs, including the Institute of Family Therapy, the Women's Therapy Centre, the Tavistock Clinic (the leading centre for trauma related issues) and Essex University. Our clients have benefited greatly from these innovative approaches which strive to meet their physical and emotional wellbeing/ mental health needs.
- We are now delivering a Time Together refugee mentoring service in Ipswich and Norwich, which commenced in October 2006. Refugees who faced barriers to integration have been empowered and assisted into education and employment by mentors. The project has exceeded all of its targets and has received a lot of positive press coverage locally, providing accurate and sympathetic information about refugees.
- We worked as partners with the local council and others in a Sunrise refugee integration national pilot project to deliver advice to new refugees in Leeds. The project has helped refugees to access housing and benefit entitlements, reducing homelessness and poverty. Links were made with employment agencies and other local initiatives also assisted clients.

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The Refugee Council will provide high quality information, advice and support to refugees and asylum seekers where it is the best provider and where it can demonstrably make a positive impact.

- We are strongly committed to delivering high quality services. During the year, a number of quality initiatives have taken place, including a detailed review of the skills of our client advisers/project workers and their training needs, updating our database of agencies to which we can signpost clients and improving the quality and accuracy of client data and client case notes. During 2006, the Children's Panel was evaluated by an external consultant who highlighted the high quality of our direct work with children and the need to ensure there were transparent processes for case allocation. The action plan from this evaluation will be taken forward in 2007/2008. We also reviewed and updated our client complaint policy and procedure, and reviewed our management of Critical Incidents within operational services.
- During the year, we established two new teams providing advice to newly arrived asylum seekers in Initial Accommodation in Birmingham and in Wakefield. The teams ensure that clients can access Home Office support and understand the asylum support process, and offer advice on a range of other issues.
- We continue to offer a health and counselling service to clients with specialist needs. During the year, an assessment, referrals and casework service was provided to 763 clients by our Bi-Cultural team in London, which aims to bring an understanding of cultural difference to our clients' problems.
- One growing issue for our services across the country is that of destitution among refused asylum seekers. A survey showed that approximately half of those coming to the Day Centre were not in receipt of any form of government financial support. At the Day Centre clients can benefit from a warm and welcoming environment, where they can learn English, or engage in an activity such as drama or a women's group and get hot, nutritious food, and emergency supplies of clothes, toiletries and food, if required. Over the year we provided 26,909 hot lunches, gave out 446 food parcels and 865 clothing parcels and participation in our drop-in English Language classes increased to a total of 3,388 sessions in 2006/07. In our offices, we work closely with organisations – such as the St George's Crypt in Leeds – to access basic support for destitute clients. We also use hardship funds to help clients who have no cash support.
- We currently work in only one detention facility, Oakington in Cambridgeshire. As a result of a change in Home Office strategy, the scale of the service was reduced and the client group changed considerably from fast track Non-Suspensive Appeal (NSA) clients to those in the Home Office's Detention Estate Population Management Unit (DEPMU) removal process. In total, there were 4,606 contact episodes with clients in detention including support for 57 age-disputed unaccompanied minors.
- The Refugee Council is the primary source of high quality information to the sector. In September 2006, we launched a multi-lingual website which means that clients, who do not speak or read English, are able to navigate to and download asylum process information in their own language for the first time. The site, which operates in 18 of the main refugee languages, plus English, is widely used across the sector and is becoming the de facto standard for all the main refugee agencies. The Refugee Council also continued to deliver the Information Service, a highly reliable source of information and guidance on the asylum process, to over 500 subscribers across the sector.
- A total of four conferences on social welfare and health issues and on policy/practice updates were held in London and York, and provided over 450 delegates with an update on the current state of the asylum system. We also delivered public and in-house training courses for more than 800 employees of second tier organisations to aid them to work better with asylum seekers and refugees.

The Refugee Council will work, in partnership where appropriate, to assist and enable other organisations including RCOs, the voluntary sector and providers of mainstream services, to develop good practice in supporting and integrating refugees and asylum seekers.

- During 2006/07, we undertook the development phase of a project to provide capacity building support to Refugee Community Organisations (RCOs) in all English regions. The BASIS project was developed in partnership with Refugee Action and followed research to assess the needs of RCOs nationally. Funding of £5,180,000 over five years has been raised from the Big Lottery Fund to take this project forward.
- The Refugee Enterprise Partnership (REP) was established as a nation-wide, broad-based, multi-sector partnership to increase the rate of business start-up and growth amongst refugees and to advise the government on business start-up and social enterprise policies and strategies. The partnership successfully established the Refugees into Business (RiB) project. During 2006/07, the project delivered customised

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training for community business advisors, to enable them to advise and signpost clients more effectively, and accredited training courses in the West Midlands and North West region for business advisers in mainstream agencies, to enable them to provide appropriate development and support to refugee entrepreneurs. Toolkits were also produced on refugee awareness for mainstream business advisers and basic business advice for advisers in refugee communities.

- Refugees into Teaching is an innovative, partnership project, funded by the Teachers Development Agency (TDA), which supports refugee teachers to requalify and teach in the UK. Over the last year, the project has registered more than 130 refugee teachers on a national database, run a seminar, supported 25 refugee teachers to attend a familiarisation course and developed and launched project web pages.
- We have continued to test and deliver innovative training to refugees and asylum seekers across London. With funding from the EASI partnership, we deliver an innovative and successful programme of English language learning and community volunteering at Hackney City Farm. We are also a delivery partner for IT training courses and employment support workshops to those with permission to work and during the year supported the capacity of two RCOs to deliver their own accredited IT training.
- We have successfully delivered financial literacy training to over 50 refugees. The projects, supported by the HBOS foundation and the FSA aimed to support people with a refugee background by reducing financial exclusion through enhancing integration, tackling poverty by developing basic financial skills and working with other partner organisations to develop and deliver suitable financial literature and related courses. Throughout the projects, five different courses were piloted and rolled out to four different areas of London.
- Our Community Development Team (CDT) delivered tailored short term consultancy advice and support to RCOs on all aspects of organisational development. This included advice to 17 women's organisations to make their services more accessible to women refugees and asylum seekers; training courses to RCOs in London on managing finance, fundraising, family law, working with unaccompanied children, developing services for vulnerable clients and developing strategic plans.
- We continue to work with RCOs and community groups to develop their governance and quality standards. We updated the second edition of Quality Assurance System for Refugee Organisations (QASRO) for distribution to 250 current users and 250 new users and organised regional launches in Newcastle, Birmingham and Manchester to distribute the new edition to community and voluntary organisations in the regions.

The Refugee Council will challenge hostility and ignorance, and campaign to influence UK, EU and international policy, public opinion and the media on all issues to do with refugees and asylum seekers.

- During the year we raised the profile of the Refugee Council as a campaigning organisation, by developing strong links to a number of organisations who are also involved in campaigns which affect our clients. These organisations were both national, regional, and from within and outside the refugee sector, with a partnership coming together towards the end of 2006 as a formal coalition under the title "Still Human, Still Here". The main campaign theme for the Refugee Council was 'Just.Fair', a campaign against the widespread destitution of our clients, We gained support of a significant cross-party group of MPs to put an amendment to the Borders Bill (to change the definition of 'asylum seekers' to incorporate all those who have claimed asylum and are still within the country), and ensured the amendment was debated in detail. The involvement of faith groups has been a particularly important part of the lobbying and campaigning activity.
- Under the "Just Fair" banner, we launched a report on the denial of free access to health care for refused asylum seekers called "First do no harm". This has had a significant impact on the public discourse around this issue. We have worked closely with health professional groups, including the Royal Colleges, and with campaign groups, such as Medecins du Monde.
- The Refugee Council has been the lead refugee agency working within a loose coalition of anti-poverty organisations to highlight poverty in the UK. This culminated in the high profile "National Poverty Hearings" at Westminster in December 2006, at which refugee and asylum seeker poverty was one of main areas focussed on.
- Throughout 2006, the Refugee Council was part of a partnership of agencies involved in the 'No Place for a Child' campaign, against holding children in detention. We worked with partners to hand in over 14,000 signatures to support the campaign and we gained the support of a quarter of backbench MPs and prompted

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the All Party Parliamentary Groups on Refugees and Children to write a report on alternatives to detention. In a recent announcement, the government said it was setting up a pilot to explore these alternatives.

- Campaigning, lobbying and policy work continued on other issues to do with children's welfare, including on the policy known as Section 9, which allowed for the removal of benefits from families refused asylum with the consequent threat of the children being taken into care. Following an internal and a public report on the failure of the policy published by the Refugee Council, the government effectively suspended the policy in mid 2006 and has since announced that it will not roll out its implementation and will only use it in very exceptional circumstances.
- We were a leading partner with the University and Colleges Union's campaign to stop cuts in the provision of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). We also supported the the Law Society campaign "What Price Justice" to protest against cuts in legal aid, the Oxfam-led campaign to control small arms and a number of actions by refugee groups to combat enforced returns of refused asylum seekers to dangerous areas, with a particular focus on Iraq.
- We have taken a number of steps to build up the capability for local activists to get involved with campaigns. We are currently building a strategy with the help of representatives from community groups and we aim to seek funding. Meanwhile our current campaigning is designed to provide platforms for local action, for example, activists across the country were given tools to create their own sleepout events for the "Just Fair" campaign and over 20 sleepouts took place.
- We successfully influenced Home Office policy on handling the asylum claims of those who have applied for the Voluntary and Assisted Returns Programme (VAARP), gaining support for the view that application for VAARP should not be seen as undermining the credibility of an asylum claim.
- The Research team published 'Prisoners of Terrorism, the impact of anti-terrorism measures on refugees and asylum seekers in Britain'. The report was launched at a seminar with the Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation and the Chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee. We also published a literature review on the needs of older refugees as part of the Older Refugees Project and we concluded the evidence gathering phase of both the Refugees' Experiences of Integration and Inclusive Secondary School Projects. The former is a two year qualitative research study, undertaken in partnership with the University of Birmingham, examining how refugees experience the multi-layered processes of integration into British society. It is looking at how different factors, such as location and length of settlement, gender, ethnic/cultural identity, age and family status, affect refugees' experiences of integration. The latter is a three-year action research project, funded by the KPMG Foundation, looking at identifying good practice and strategies for increasing the inclusion of asylum seeking and refugee children in secondary education and improving their educational attainment.
- 'Tell It Like It Is', a myth buster leaflet, containing key facts about asylum, was initially produced for the election, but continues to be very well received. 30,000 copies having been downloaded from the website and copied, and distributed in print
- We successfully piloted a respected network for parliamentarians interested in refugee issues: the Parliamentary Asylum and Refugee Network (PARN), and led the refugee sector in lobbying on the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Bill and the UK Borders Bill. The Refugee Council continues to support the All Party Parliamentary Group on Refugees, as well as working with other APPGs.
- The Refugee Council is the lead partner in the multi-agency Refugee Week. The Refugee Council hosts and line manages the central co-ordinating team. Refugee Week 2006 saw more than 500 events take place across the UK, and for the first time messages of support came from all three party leaders. Another first was the national launch event, attended by the Minister for Integration, Joan Ryan. In September 2006, a Refugee Week conference was held in London, to bring together event organisers from across the UK to share good practice and encourage the growth of Refugee Week.
- We continued to monitor closely the workings of the New Asylum Model (NAM), which has been introduced as a more effective way of handling the asylum process over the last two years. We attended monthly Home Office stakeholder meetings and were able to raise detailed concerns about the performance of case owners, the timing of interviews, access to legal advice and reporting arrangements. In particular, we raised a number of reservations about the proposed treatment of unaccompanied children within the NAM, as a result of which the procedures were significantly changed.
- We responded in detail to the Home Office's consultation on the EU Qualification Directive on minimum standards for qualification as a refugee and for international protection. Our response highlighted that the standards proposed by the Directive for Internal Protection fell below those set out in UNHCR guidelines.

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Jointly with the Scottish Refugee Council and Welsh Refugee Council, we submitted evidence to the House of Commons Home Affairs Committee inquiry into EU issues demonstrating the urgent need to assess and rectify the impact that EU border controls have on those fleeing persecution and their ability to seek asylum.

The Refugee Council will improve efficiency, performance and delivery, with a positive culture which encourages, inspires and helps staff and volunteers to deliver excellence.

- We introduced the Volunteer Awards programme, providing small scale funding for new projects developed and delivered by volunteers.
- We used volunteering opportunities to engage existing and new corporate partners and develop a joint fundraising and volunteering approach to potentially broaden funding streams. Pilot schemes have been set up with two corporate partners. This includes providing training on refugee issues to over 50 corporate employee volunteers to enable them to mentor refugee clients and assist them in integrating and in accessing training and employment opportunities. We also organised over 70 practice interviews for refugees seeking employment using trained volunteers from corporate partners.
- We started a Volunteer Advisors pilot in Leeds, involving volunteers handling the more routine enquiries and allowing our client advisers to concentrate on the more complex cases. Since the pilot, waiting time for quick advice for clients has reduced, due to the extra resources created by the volunteer advisors. There have been opportunities for volunteers to gain experience in direct line services, with one participant gaining the skills to get employment as a client advisor, and the pilot has also provided development opportunities for staff. We have evaluated the pilot and agreed to roll this out across the organisation.
- The Talks Teams in Yorkshire & Humberside and East of England delivered over 80 talks to school children and community groups across the two regions on the theme "Why I left my country", as told by asylum seeking volunteers. The Talks Teams have been successful on two levels; they have given asylum seeking volunteers the opportunity to learn new skills, make links with local communities and built confidence in public speaking and have markedly changed the perceptions of those receiving the talks. The Talks Teams have a waiting list of schools wanting them to come and run sessions.
- We upgraded our IT systems during the year to provide greater resilience, improve desk top performance and allow remote access to emails.
- We worked with budget holders to increase financial awareness throughout the organisation and improve the quality of our financial reporting.

Financial Review

Income

Total income of £18.5m remained fairly constant compared with last year (£18.3m).

Income from Asylum Support Accommodation, which is included within direct services to refugees and asylum seekers and which is fully match funded by the Home Office, was £2.1m, which was 5% below last year. The Home Office now contract with specialist housing providers to provide Initial Accommodation, and we are focussing increasingly on providing advice services, one of our organisational core skills, rather than housing support.

Underlying income, excluding Asylum Support Accommodation, was £16.4m; this was £400k up on last year as a result of an increase in voluntary income of £584k.

Although the environment for raising funds for refugee and asylum issues showed no sign of getting easier, fundraising income increased by 34% from £1.8m to £2.4m. Income from campaigning and policy fell by 33% to £0.4m; income from education and training programmes was 2% lower than last year at £1.18m and capacity building was down 24% at £1.2m. Investment and other income increased by over 100% to £0.2m, primarily due to rigorous treasury management and higher interest rates.

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Expenditure

Total expenditure of £17.9m was down by 1% on last year. Excluding the cost of Asylum Support Accommodation of £2.1m, expenditure was £15.8m, which was 1% above last year.

Fundraising expenses were 1% lower at £0.6m; campaigning and policy costs increased by 4% to £1.1m; education and training by 5% to £1.3m and capacity building fell by 16% to £1.4m. The resulting net increase in funds of £0.6m reflects effective action taken by the organisation to reduce costs, particularly in activities funded by unrestricted income and work to increase the effectiveness of our fundraising activities. The closing balance on total funds increased by 17% to £4.3m; and unrestricted funds, including designated, increased by 30% to £2.3m.

Balance Sheet

There was a balance of £7.0m under cash at bank and in hand at the year end, an increase of £3.0m on last year. This growth reflects an uplift of £1.8m in trust and grant income for 2007/08 received in advance of the year end, an increase in the provisions for dilapidations and an increase in reserves.

The provision for dilapidations has been increased to £0.7m in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard No.12. This has been determined with professional guidance on potential contractual costs on leasehold premises.

Total funds at the year-end stood at £4.3m of which £1.9m represents restricted funds, £1.5m general unrestricted funds and £0.8m designated funds. Designated funds represent primarily the pension and Surrey Refugee Committee reserves as disclosed in note 14 of the financial statements.

Reserves

The Trustees have confirmed the Reserves Policy for the Refugee Council. This states that the Refugee Council will hold a designated fund equal in value to the net Tangible Assets at the year end (the Fixed Asset Reserve) and set a target level of general unrestricted funds, as part of the strategic plan, and to increase reserves year-on year to achieve that target.

The target level of general unrestricted funds is reviewed annually as part of the budget process and is set in consideration of the exposure the Refugee Council has for expenditure in the event of income falling. The target is currently £2.25m. General unrestricted funds increased by £0.4m to £1.5m during the year.

Investment Policy

The charity has, with the exception of donated investments, opted not to pursue a policy of investing surplus funds on the equities or bonds markets. Instead, due to the short-term nature of its surplus funds and the need to retain quick access to them, the charity has chosen to place surplus funds on the money markets for short-term periods. The donations kept as investments are not material in value, being £25k at 31 March 2007. These will be disposed of after the balance sheet date.

Plans for Future Periods

Our client group continues to face a difficult environment; the issue of asylum retains a high profile within the media, often to the detriment of those in need. We continue to challenge these negative preconceptions while offering practical help and support to those ordinary people who have managed to escape often difficult circumstances to seek asylum in the UK. In working for our client group in the coming year, we continue to focus on the four major areas of activity as defined below. In addition, we will carry out a wide-ranging, consultative strategic review and take decisions on the Refugee Council's direction and priorities from 2008/09 onwards.

The principal risk for the organisation continues to be its ongoing funding. During 2006/07, the Home Office reviewed the funding arrangements for the refugee voluntary sector and, whilst there are no changes for 2007/8, the decision has been taken to withdraw core grant funding with effect from 01 April 2008. As the leading agency within the refugee voluntary sector the Refugee Council will receive a strategic grant for 2008/9 and that will be allocated, as appropriate. Nevertheless there will be a shortfall in funding which will be recovered by introducing a recognised and approved form of Full Cost Recovery. We will continue to plan for this change during 2007/08.

Asylum support & refugee integration (direct services to refugees and asylum seekers)

We will continue to deliver high quality advice and support services to our clients from their entry into the United Kingdom as an asylum seeker to their integration into the community as a refugee.

We will:

- Continue to develop and improve the efficiency, quality and cost effectiveness of our main One Stop Service through implementing, together with other refugee agencies who offer the service, a Value for Money Review carried out in conjunction with the Home Office. We will strengthen our outreach services and increase their accessibility, increasing the proportion of services provided through outreach where necessary.
- Continue to deliver high-quality advice and briefing services to newly arrived asylum seekers in Initial Accommodation and through our One Day Induction Process (ODIP) in Brixton. We will consolidate the work of the two new teams in Initial Accommodation sites in Wakefield and Birmingham, and at all sites will continue to develop the services to reflect the changes in Home Office/BIA processes. If the Home Office tender for the wraparound services in Initial Accommodation, we will submit competitive bids to continue to run them.
- Continue to offer, through our Children's Panel, unaccompanied asylum seeking children high quality advice and support, which remains child-focussed with clear outcomes. Our practise will be informed and improved by the action plan which came out of an external evaluation which we commissioned in 2006/07. This will help us deal with the substantial unmet need for our services, improve our prioritisation of work and support our expansion of services outside London.
- Continue to negotiate with Local Authorities in Yorkshire and Humberside and in the East of England to secure at least one more Local Authority willing to accept resettled refugees under the Gateway Protection Programme. In parallel, we will support further groups of Burmese and Karen refugees in Sheffield from July 2007 and expect to be selected to support a further group in Norwich from autumn 2007.
- Take on two additional contracts with the Home Office and the Social Policy Unit to deliver a One Stop Service and a SUNRISE refugee integration service in West London, and provide a seperately funded service to newly arrived, unaccompanied children at Heathrow Airport. This is due to the closure of the Refugee Arrivals Project.
- Put forward a series of competitive and innovative bids in the tender process to be run by the Home Office for Refugee Integration Services. The services available will include integration services for both individuals and RCOs.
- Provide essential welfare assistance to clients in detention in Oakington and maintain our role of independent scrutiny of detention practices.

Campaigning and Policy

We will continue to campaign, using a solid base of evidence-based policy, both to influence government and to impact on the negative public perception of our client group.

We will:

- Continue to develop and build on the campaigning role of the Refugee Council. Our overall theme for the year will be 'Just.Fair.' with a focus on combating destitution. The aims of the campaign will be to influence the direction of incoming governments over that period and beyond.
- Continue to combine with other organisations to extend the reach of our campaigning activity. This will include a bid to create a campaign platform within the refugee community and to increase our capacity to campaign in the regions.
- Develop innovative projects designed to build an evidence base on the experiences and needs of our clients. We will publish the final reports of the Refugees' Experiences of Integration Project and begin the advocacy element of that work. We will conclude and evaluate the pilot partnership stage of the Inclusive Secondary School Project and begin the final phase of that project.
- Focus on the delivery of the innovative 'Protection Sensitive Borders Project' and on responding to the development of the Common European Asylum System, notably the forthcoming Green Paper and the development of Regional Protection Programmes.
- Continue to focus domestically on the New Asylum Model (NAM), producing an evaluation of its operation, detention, issues for children turning 18 and returns programmes for children, access to ESOL and further education and access to employment.

Education and training

We will continue to build on our current strengths in running conferences and training courses, which are attractive, both to those within the refugee sector and to mainstream providers. In parallel we will continue to offer innovative training and development opportunities to individual asylum seekers and refugees.

We will:

- Organise four conferences on policy/practice and integration issues to deliver over a hundred public or in-house courses to 1000+ delegates.
- Revise the Information Service taking into account the new asylum model and the situation for "legacy cases". There will also be a feasibility study to understand the value and possibility of making it available online. In parallel with this, there will be a concerted effort to obtain funding from sources other than subscribers which will allow us to make it available to a far broader audience who support our client group.
- Continue to develop new and innovative volunteer roles that maximise opportunity and choice for people who want to volunteer with us, and in particular to support refugee and asylum seeking volunteers.
- Increase the range of volunteering opportunities that corporate partners can access.
- Deliver ESOL and volunteering courses to individual asylum seekers and refugees. Three courses are planned in conjunction with Hackney City Farm; and a further two IT courses are scheduled within refugee community locations.

Capacity building

We work in partnership with Refugee Community Organisations and mainstream organisations to both improve the services available for our clients and to develop the strength of RCOs themselves.

We will:

- Implement the first stages of the BASIS project to deliver organisational and fundraising advice to a planned 450 RCOs. The first stage of the project will include the establishment of the central team and the rollout in the autumn of the teams of advisers housed by both the Refugee Council and our partner, Refugee Action, across the country.
- Reconfigure our existing RCO advice and consultancy projects to dovetail with the BASIS project and to incorporate any services which we may win under the Home Office Refugee Integration tender.

- Deliver on the core target for the Refugee Teachers' Project of registering refugee teachers on the national database and, through our partners, deliver familiarisation courses and qualifications assessments for teachers seeking to re-qualify.
- Service the Implementation Groups and Community meetings but supplement this with outreach and development in two new communities: RCOs for Somalia and RCOs for Iran.
- With the British and Irish Agencies Afghanistan Group (BAAG) continue to co-ordinate member agencies' advocacy on critical areas such as civil/military co-operation, provide a secretariat function to the European Network of NGOs for Afghanistan (ENNA) and seek a more sustainable funding base for the long term development of the project.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees (as directors) are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements. The Trustees have chosen to prepare accounts for the company in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (UK GAAP). Company law requires the Trustees to prepare such financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period and comply with UK GAAP and the Companies Act 1985. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company, for safeguarding the assets, for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities and for the preparation of a Trustees' report which complies with the requirements of the Companies Act 1985 and the Statement of Recommended Practice, accounting and reporting by charities.

Provision of information to auditors

Each of the persons who is a trustee at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

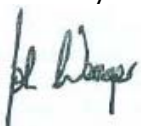
- so far as the trustee is aware, no relevant audit information has been withheld from the company's auditors; and
- the trustee has taken all the steps that he/she could reasonably be expected to have taken as a trustee in order to make himself/herself aware of any relevant audit information and has established that this information has not been withheld from the auditors.

This confirmation is given and should be interpreted in accordance with the provisions of s234ZA of the Companies Act 1985.

Auditors

Following a competitive tender process, PKF (UK) LLP were appointed as auditors on 24 January 2007. A resolution to re-appoint PKF (UK) LLP as the Company's auditors will be proposed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

This report was approved and authorised for issue by the Council on 27 September 2007 and signed on its behalf by:



John Wenger
Treasurer

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
BRITISH REFUGEE COUNCIL**

We have audited the financial statements of British Refugee Council for the year ended 31 March 2007 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the cash flow statement and the related notes. The financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out therein.

This report is made solely to the charity's members, as a body, in accordance with section 235 of the Companies Act 1985. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

The responsibilities of the Trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) for preparing the annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom accounting standards ('United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice') are set out in the statement of trustees' responsibilities.

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985. We also report to you whether in our opinion the information given in the trustees' report is consistent with the financial statements.

In addition we report to you if, in our opinion, the company has not kept proper accounting records, if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit, or if information specified by law regarding directors' remuneration and other transactions is not disclosed.

In addition we report to you if, in our opinion, the charity has not kept proper accounting records, if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit, or if information specified by law regarding trustees' remuneration and other transactions is not disclosed.

We read the Trustees' report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements within it.

Basis of audit opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgments made by the trustees in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charity's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

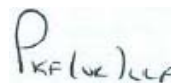
We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

Opinion

In our opinion:

- the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2007 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985; and

- the information given in the Trustees' report is consistent with the financial statements.



PKF (UK) LLP
Registered Auditors

London, UK
25 October 2007

BRITISH REFUGEE COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2007

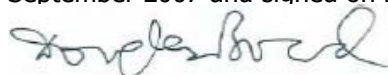
	<u>Notes</u>	Unrestricted <u>funds</u> £'000	Restricted <u>funds</u> £'000	2007 <u>Total</u> £'000	2006 <u>Total</u> £'000
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income					
Donations, legacies and other voluntary income	2	1,227	1,138	2,365	1,781
Investment income	3	232	6	238	114
Incoming resources from charitable activities					
Direct services to refugees and asylum seekers	4	2,085	11,017	13,102	13,008
Campaigning and policy		201	166	367	545
Education and training		386	794	1,180	1,210
Capacity building		279	941	1,220	1,609
Other incoming resources	5	38	-	38	32
Total incoming resources		4,448	14,062	18,510	18,299
Less: Cost of generating funds					
Voluntary income:					
Fundraising costs	6	551	-	551	557
Total cost of generating funds		551	-	551	557
Net incoming resources available for charitable activities		3,897	14,062	17,959	17,742
Resources expended					
Charitable activities:					
Direct services to refugees and asylum seekers		1,938	11,386	13,324	13,262
Campaigning and policy		571	541	1,112	1,069
Education and training		507	840	1,347	1,285
Capacity building		274	1,206	1,480	1,768
Total charitable activity costs	6/7	3,290	13,973	17,263	17,384
Governance costs	6	69	-	69	44
Total resources expended		3,910	13,973	17,883	17,985
Net incoming resources before other recognised gains and losses		538	89	627	314
Other recognised gains					
Gains on investment assets	9	1	-	1	5
Net movement in funds in the year		539	89	628	319
Transfer between funds					
Total funds brought forward 1 April 2006		1,795	1,852	3,647	3,328
Total funds carried forward 31 March 2007		2,334	1,941	4,275	3,647

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All incoming resources and resources expended are derived from continuing activities.

BRITISH REFUGEE COUNCIL
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2007

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2007</u> £'000	<u>2006</u> £'000
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	8	337	360
Investments	9	25	24
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		362	384
		<hr/>	<hr/>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	10	2,215	2,372
Cash at bank and in hand	11	7,009	3,975
		<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		9,224	6,347
CREDITORS:			
Amounts falling due within one year	12	(4,536)	(2,574)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		4,688	3,773
		<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		5,050	4,157
PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES	13	(775)	(510)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
NET ASSETS		4,275	3,647
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
FUNDS			
Unrestricted funds			
General		1,512	1,095
Designated		822	700
		<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS		2,334	1,795
Restricted funds		1,941	1,852
		<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL FUNDS	14	4,275	3,647
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

These financial statements on pages 19 to 33 were approved and authorised for issue by the Council on 27 September 2007 and signed on its behalf by:



Douglas Board
Chair



John Wenger
Treasurer

The accompanying notes form an integral part of this balance sheet.

BRITISH REFUGEE COUNCIL
CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2007

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2007</u> £'000	<u>2006</u> £'000
Net cash inflow from operating activities	(i)	2,891	1,124
Returns on investments and servicing of finance	(ii)	238	114
Capital expenditure and financial investment	(iii)	(95)	(23)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Increase in cash in the year	(iv)	3,034	1,215
		<hr/>	<hr/>
(i) Reconciliation of net incoming resources to net cash inflow from operating activities			
Net incoming resources		627	314
Depreciation		110	203
Loss on write off fixed assets		8	5
Non cash movement on legacies		-	(9)
Decrease in debtors		157	1,206
Increase/(decrease) in creditors		1,962	(733)
Increase in provisions		265	252
Interest receivable		(238)	(114)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash inflow from operating activities		2,891	1,124
		<hr/>	<hr/>
(ii) Returns on investments and servicing of finance			
Interest received		238	114
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash inflow		238	114
		<hr/>	<hr/>
(iii) Capital expenditure and financial investment			
Purchase of tangible assets		95	23
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash outflow		95	23
		<hr/>	<hr/>
(iv) Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds (note 20)			
Increase in cash in the year		3,034	1,215
Net funds at 1 April 2006		3,975	2,760
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net funds at 31 March 2007		7,009	3,975
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of this cash flow statement.

BRITISH REFUGEE COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2007

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005) issued in March 2005, applicable UK Accounting Standards and the Companies Act 1985. The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below.

(b) Incoming resources

Voluntary income including donations, gifts and legacies and grants that provide care funding or are of a general nature are recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability. Such income is only deferred when:

- the donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in future accounting periods; or
- the donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

Gifts in kind are included in income at their estimated market value where possible. Donated assets are included at realisable value. No value has been attributed to donated goods in the form of clothing, toiletries and tinned food that provide welfare to the beneficiaries of the Council. The value of services provided by volunteers is not incorporated into these financial statements. Further details of the contribution made by volunteers can be found in the Trustees' annual report.

Income from charitable activities includes income received under contract or where entitlement to grant funding is subject to specific project conditions is recognised as earned. Grant income included in this category provides funding to support projects and is recognised where there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability. Income is deferred when:

- project related grants are received in advance of the date they are due to commence; or
- projects are delayed due to specific conditions not being in place.

(c) Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under the related activity. The expenditure comprises direct expenditure including direct staff cost attributable and allocated support cost. Support costs represent operational overheads incurred in provision of services to the beneficiaries of the charity. Support cost has been allocated on the basis of head count (full time equivalent) consistent with the use of resources. These costs include central administration cost arising from Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology and Business Services.

Cost of generating funds are those costs incurred in attracting voluntary income.

Charitable activities include grants payable and expenditure associated with the provision of service to the beneficiaries and stakeholders in the charity, and covers both direct cost and allocated support cost relating to these activities. Grants payable are accounted for when the directors have accepted a legal or moral obligation to make the grant. The value of grants approved, but still to be paid, are included in the balance sheet as current liabilities.

BRITISH REFUGEE COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2007

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(c) Resources expended (continued)

Charitable activities have been classified into the following main activities of the charity:

Direct services to refugees and asylum seekers

Covers services such as: the One Stop Service, the One Day Induction Process, Reception Service, Initial Accommodation, Gateway Protection Programme and Resettlement services.

Campaigning and policy

Covers activities arising from the charity's key role, which is to ensure that UK immigration legislation and European directives are responded to in a co-ordinated manner. This includes work on policy research, European Voluntary Returns and Parliamentary lobbying.

Education and training

Covers activities under the Learning Integration Unit and as well as direct training and conference seminars offered to organisations and individuals. The charity also provides publications and leaflets which are available to the public.

Capacity building

The charity's work extends beyond the provision of direct service to the asylum seekers and refugees as it also supports a large number of local and regional organisations. Activities in this area include work with Refugee Community Organisations as well as projects supporting refugee integration in the wider society.

Governance costs

Include those incurred in the governance of the charity and its assets and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements. This includes such items as external audit, legal advice for Trustees and other associated costs arising from their fiduciary responsibilities.

(d) Fund accounting

The charity maintains various types of funds as follows:

Unrestricted funds

Designated funds are unrestricted funds transferred from general funds and set aside at the discretion of the Board of Trustees for particular purposes. The Trustees review the composition of the funds annually in order to assess their continued use and make new reserves in line with the future strategy of the charity. General unrestricted funds represent funds which are expendable at the discretion of the Trustees in the furtherance of the objects of the charity. The current status of designated and general funds is disclosed in note 14.

Restricted funds

Restricted funds are funds, which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donors, or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. Capital grants received for specific activities are recognised as restricted funds and released over the useful life of the asset. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in note 14 to the financial statements.

(e) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets purchased for the Refugee Council's purposes and costing more than £500, are capitalised and included at cost, including any incidental expenses of acquisition. Depreciation is calculated so as to write off tangible assets on a straight line basis over the expected useful lives as follows:

Freehold buildings	50 years
Leasehold property improvements	lesser of 10 years or lease period
Computer equipment	3 years
Motor vehicles, furniture, fixtures and equipment	5 years

Computer equipment purchased for specific projects is written off in the year of purchase.

BRITISH REFUGEE COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2007

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(f) Value added tax

Irrecoverable Value Added Tax is included in the relevant costs in the Statement of Financial Activities.

(g) Pension policy

For annual accounting purposes the pension scheme is treated as a defined contribution scheme and the amount charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in respect of pension costs and other post-retirement benefits is the contributions payable in the year. Differences between contributions payable in the year and contributions actually paid are shown as either accruals or prepayments in the balance sheet.

(h) Investments

Investments listed on a recognised stock exchange are stated at market value at the balance sheet date. The statement of financial activities shows the net unrealised gains and losses arising from the revaluation of the investment portfolio throughout the year. The charity does not actively participate in trading on the Stock Exchange; all investments arose from shares transferred as part of residual legacies.

(i) Finance and operating leases

Rentals applicable to operating leases, where substantially all the benefits and risk of ownership remain with the lessor, are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities over the period in which the cost is incurred. The Refugee Council has no assets under finance leases, which confer rights, and obligations similar to those attached to owned assets.

(j) Provision for liabilities

Provision for liabilities only arises where the charity has a legal or constructive obligation to meet future liabilities. The following liabilities have been recognised in the accounts:

Dilapidations

Provision is made for dilapidation works due to arise on leasehold properties. The Refugee Council has a contractual obligation to absorb such future costs, expected to arise in the third quarter of 2008. The provision for these costs is based on the results of an external review carried out by a firm of chartered surveyors. See note 13.

Other provisions

This arises whereby the charity is required to make good any claim arising from restricted funds which are subject to finalisation and closure reports.

BRITISH REFUGEE COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2007

2 DONATIONS, LEGACIES AND OTHER VOLUNTARY INCOME

	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>income</u> £'000	<u>Restricted</u> <u>income</u> £'000	<u>2007</u> <u>Total</u> £'000	<u>2006</u> <u>Total</u> £'000
Individual donations and fundraising events	791	22	813	746
Corporate donors	-	-	-	223
Charitable trust foundations	108	630	738	267
Charitable companies and agencies	-	485	485	141
Core statutory grant	-	-	-	21
Legacies	317	-	317	246
Other	11	1	12	137
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,227	1,138	2,365	1,781
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Voluntary income grants requiring disclosure in the statutory accounts are disclosed in note 4(a).

3 INVESTMENT INCOME

	<u>Unrestricted</u> £'000	<u>Restricted</u> £'000	<u>2007</u> <u>Total</u> £'000	<u>2006</u> <u>Total</u> £'000
Dividends	1	-	1	2
Interest on cash deposits	231	6	237	112
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	232	6	238	114
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

BRITISH REFUGEE COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2007

4 STATUTORY AND OTHER GRANT FUNDERS

	<u>Direct services</u> £'000	<u>Campaigns & policy</u> £'000	<u>Education & training</u> £'000	<u>Capacity building</u> £'000	<u>2007 Total</u> £'000	<u>2006 Total</u> £'000
Restricted income						
Association of London Government						
Other	-	-	-	-	-	13
Prime	-	-	72	-	72	149
Refugee Week	-	-	20	-	20	17
Barnsley Metropolitan BC	81	-	-	-	81	68
Capacity Builders	-	-	-	12	12	-
Department of Health	29	-	-	-	29	-
Department for International Development	-	17	-	-	17	285
Department of Trade & Industry	-	-	-	290	290	178
Department of Skills and Employment	-	-	-	-	-	59
Development Cooperation Ireland	-	43	-	-	43	-
European Social Fund	-	1	181	-	182	350
European Refugee Fund	-	1	-	-	1	11
Financial Services Authority	-	-	9	-	9	-
Home Office	10,502	88	60	641	11,291	11,477
Interchurch Organisation for Development Co-operation	-	3	-	-	3	12
Learning and Skills Council	-	-	12	-	12	170
Leeds City Council	276	-	-	-	276	248
London Borough of Hillingdon	-	-	-	-	-	122
London Development Agency	-	-	9	-	9	-
Norfolk City Council	114	-	-	-	114	-
Peterborough City Council	-	-	44	-	44	49
Refugee Action West Midlands	-	-	-	-	-	20
South Thames College	-	-	-	-	-	89
Southwark Council	-	-	38	-	38	-
Training & Development Agency for Schools	-	-	343	-	343	-
Yorkshire Humberside Consortium	-	-	-	-	-	15
Other General Income	15	13	6	(2)	32	70
Unrestricted income						
Home Office	2,075	195	196	279	2,745	2,636
Peterborough City Council	8	-	-	-	8	-
Other General Income	2	6	190	-	198	334
	13,102	367	1,180	1,220	15,869	16,372

4 (a) Voluntary restricted income grants

Arts Council	-	-	34	-	34	16
BBC Children in Need	26	-	-	-	26	34
Bridge House Trust	-	-	-	30	30	-
Catholic Agency for Overseas Department	6	-	-	-	6	-
Camelot Foundation	53	-	-	-	53	-
Community Fund-Big Lottery: 4 (2006: 2) project grants	50	93	-	168	311	110
City Parochial Foundation	26	-	-	-	26	12
Diana Memorial Fund	-	59	-	-	59	56
KPMG Foundation	-	213	-	-	213	168
HBOS Foundation	-	-	50	-	50	50
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	-	10	-	-	10	10
Lankelleychase Foundation	-	-	-	17	17	17
Northmoor Trust	-	-	-	13	13	13
Northern Rock	-	-	-	29	29	4
Wates Foundation	-	-	20	-	20	-
Wakefield Trust	-	-	-	10	10	5
	161	375	104	267	907	495

BRITISH REFUGEE COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2007

5 OTHER INCOMING RESOURCES

	<u>Unrestricted</u> £'000	<u>Restricted</u> £'000	<u>2007</u> <u>Total</u> £'000	<u>2006</u> <u>Total</u> £'000
Rental income	38	-	38	32

6 TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED

	<u>Staff</u> <u>costs</u> £'000	<u>Core</u> <u>costs</u> £'000	<u>Support</u> <u>costs</u> £'000	<u>2007</u> <u>Total</u> £'000	<u>2006</u> <u>Total</u> £'000
Cost of activities for generated funds					
Fundraising costs	362	124	65	551	557
Charitable activities					
Direct services to refugees and asylum seekers	7,214	4,987	1,123	13,324	13,262
Campaigning and policy	745	222	145	1,112	1,069
Education and training	766	457	124	1,347	1,285
Capacity building	791	560	129	1,480	1,768
Governance	-	69	-	69	44
	9,516	6,295	1,521	17,332	17,428
Total resources expended	9,878	6,419	1,586	17,883	17,985

Support costs include:

	<u>2007</u> £'000	<u>2006</u> £'000
Depreciation charge	110	201
Auditors' remuneration:		
Statutory audit fees		36
35		
Other fees	3	-
Operating lease rentals		
Buildings	685	689
Equipment	54	65

BRITISH REFUGEE COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2007

7 GRANTS PAYABLE

	<u>Grants<</u> £1,000	<u>Grants></u> £1,000	<u>2007</u> £'000	<u>2006</u> £'000
Grants paid in the year included in charitable activities are as follows:				
Direct services to refugees and asylum seekers	-	1,002	1,002	957
Education and training	15	86	101	484
Campaigning and policy	-	40	40	-
Capacity building	-	103	103	97
	15	1,231	1,246	1,538

See Appendix 1

8 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	<u>Freehold property</u> £'000	<u>Leasehold property improvement</u> £'000	<u>Computer equipment</u> £'000	<u>Furniture, motor vehicle, fixtures and equipment</u> £'000	<u>Total</u> £'000
Cost					
At 1 April 2006	172	424	925	216	1,737
Reclassifications	-	-	(11)	-	(11)
Disposals	-	-	-	(16)	(16)
Additions	-	-	95	-	95
	172	424	1,009	200	1,805
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2006	3	326	869	179	1,377
Reclassification	-	-	(3)	-	(3)
Disposal	-	-	-	(16)	(16)
Charge for the year	3	48	45	14	110
	6	374	911	177	1,468
Net book value					
At 31 March 2007	166	50	98	23	337
At 31 March 2006	169	98	56	37	360

BRITISH REFUGEE COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2007

9	INVESTMENTS	<u>2007</u> £'000	<u>2006</u> £'000
	UK Listed Investments		
	Market value at 1 April 2006	24	10
	Additions in the year	-	9
	Net investment gain	1	5
		<hr/>	<hr/>
	Market value at 31 March 2007	25	24
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
	Historical costs at 31 March 2007	16	16
	Market value	25	24
		<hr/>	<hr/>
	Net investment gain on historical costs	9	8
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
10	DEBTORS	<u>2007</u> £'000	<u>2006</u> £'000
	Amounts falling due within one year		
	Grants receivable	919	870
	Other debtors	851	869
	Prepayments and accrued income	445	633
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		2,215	2,372
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
11	CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND	<u>2007</u> £'000	<u>2006</u> £'000
	Cash on short term deposit	4,700	3,000
	Cash at bank and in hand	2,309	975
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		7,009	3,975
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Cash on short term deposit includes grant income received in advance of approximately £1.8m for 2007/08.

BRITISH REFUGEE COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2007

12 CREDITORS	<u>2007</u> £'000	<u>2006</u> £'000
Trade creditors	529	232
Other creditors	1,492	1,326
Taxes and social security costs	225	229
Accruals and deferred income	2,290	787
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	4,536	2,574
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Movement on deferred income		
Balance at 1 April 2006	238	78
Income in the year	1,870	238
Income released in the year	(238)	(78)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance at 31 March 2007	1,870	238
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Deferred income at the end of the financial year relates to trust and grant income restricted to financial year 2007/08.

13 PROVISION FOR LIABILITIES	<u>2007</u> £'000	<u>2006</u> £'000
Dilapidations		
Balance at 1 April 2006	480	258
Amounts utilised in the year	-	-
Additions	265	222
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance at 31 March 2007	745	480
Other provision	30	30
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	775	510
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Dilapidation provisions arise due to constructive obligations arising under leasehold agreements. Works relating to dilapidations are expected to crystallise within the next 18 months.

Other provisions represent projects from prior years with outstanding claims which are still subject to a closure report.

BRITISH REFUGEE COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2007

14 MOVEMENT ON FUNDS

	Balance at 1 April <u>2006</u> £'000	<u>Incoming resources</u> £'000	<u>Outgoing resources</u> £'000	Unrealised <u>gains</u> £'000	<u>Transfers</u> £'000	Balance at 31 March <u>2007</u> £'000
Unrestricted funds						
General	1,095	4,439	(3,902)	1	(121)	1,512
Designated						
Pension Fund (i)	354	-	-	-	200	554
Refugee Aid Fund (ii)	-	2	-	-	2	4
Fixed Asset Reserve (iii)	173	-	-	-	(81)	92
County of Surrey Refugee Committee Fund (iv)	173	7	(8)	-	-	172
Total unrestricted funds	<u>1,795</u>	<u>4,448</u>	<u>(3,910)</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,334</u>

The above funds carried forward at 31 March 2007 represent:

- (i) The Pension Fund is to cover any contingent liability on the charity's pension arrangement. The Trustees agreed in the year to transfer £200k (2006: £200k) from the General Fund to the Pension Fund.
- (ii) The Refugee Aid Fund was designated by the Trustees to provide aid and direct benefits to refugees. During the year the charity received £1,500 (2006: £1,500) from the Peter Storrs Charity as a donation.
- (iii) The Fixed Asset Reserve represents the extent to which funds are invested in tangible fixed assets, excluding freehold properties and restricted assets for use by the charity, which are not available for other purposes.
- (iv) County of Surrey Refugee Committee Fund is represented by two freehold properties transferred in 2005 by a charity with similar objectives to the Refugee Council. The properties are used to provide private residential accommodation to refugees.

	Balance at 1 April <u>2006</u> £'000	<u>Incoming resources</u> £'000	<u>Outgoing resources</u> £'000	Unrealised <u>gains</u> £'000	<u>Transfers</u> £'000	Balance at 31 March <u>2007</u> £'000
Restricted funds						
Direct services to refugees and asylum seekers:						
Asylum support services (v)	871	7,014	(7,275)	-	-	610
Initial accommodation (vi)	-	2,103	(2,103)	-	-	-
Children Panel (vii)	156	1,266	(1,305)	-	-	117
Gateway and resettlement (viii)	206	910	(688)	-	-	428
Campaigning and policy (ix)	198	563	(541)	-	-	220
Education and training (x)	135	963	(835)	-	-	263
Community and regional development (xi)	142	1,218	(1,206)	-	-	154
Other restricted sundry grants (xii)	16	19	(13)	-	-	22
Felice Morgan Fund (xiii)	13	1	(7)	-	-	7
John Frank Fund (xiii)	115	5	-	-	-	120
Total restricted funds	<u>1,852</u>	<u>14,062</u>	<u>(13,973)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,941</u>

BRITISH REFUGEE COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2007

14 MOVEMENT ON FUNDS (continued)

The above funds carried forward at 31 March 2007 represent:

- (v) The Asylum Support Services grant is funded by the Home Office under the Border and Immigration Agency (formerly National Asylum Support Service). The grant is used to provide advice and support to individuals and families at all stages of the asylum process.
- (vi) Initial Accommodation Service provides asylum seekers with temporary accommodation during the asylum process. This particular area of activity is in decline as the Refugee Council nears the end of its contract with the Border and Immigration Agency (formerly National Asylum Support Service).
- (vii) The Children's Panel works mainly with unaccompanied children. The Panel provides access to education, training, health care and legal advice. This activity is principally funded by the Home Office.
- (viii) Gateway and resettlement arises from the Government's 'Gateway Protection Programme' which resettles refugees who have been living in camps around the world in the United Kingdom.
- (ix) The Refugee Council plays a key role in challenging UK and European policies that are detrimental to asylum seekers and refugees. Grant funding is used to support research and analysis for reports and lobbying. This work involves co-ordination with partners in the UK and Europe.
- (x) Education and training activities cover the provision of information in a number of media and to a wide range of audiences – refugees and asylum seekers, community groups, statutory service providers to name a few. It also facilitates and provides access to training and employment which is vital for integration into the wider society.
- (xi) Community and regional development is the support of local and regional organisations. This is carried out through training conferences, information, advice services, support networks and by helping organisations to develop and deliver their services.
- (xii) Other restricted sundry grants cover a number of activities which are not funded by principal funders. The activities mainly involve lobbying and research under campaigning and policy. Included in this category is the Hardship Fund, used to provide grant payments to refugees and asylum seekers in distress.
- (xiii) The Felice Morgan Fund offers financial grants for refugees and asylum seekers to continue their studies as well as access informal education, voluntary work and employment.
- (xiiii) The John Frank Fund is used to provide assistance to refugees who need to gain further qualifications and training to enhance their employment prospects in the United Kingdom. The capital element of the fund is invested in a low risk cash deposit and the interest arising from it is used to meet grant requests.

15 EMPLOYEE INFORMATION

The full time equivalent number of employees within the year was as follows:

	2007	2006
	£'000	£'000
Cost of activities for generated funds	9	9
Cost of charitable activities	250	276
	259	285

BRITISH REFUGEE COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2007

15 EMPLOYEE INFORMATION (continued)	<u>2007</u> £'000	<u>2006</u> £'000
Staff costs comprised:		
Wages and salaries	8,215	7,942
Social security costs	809	811
Pension costs	109	119
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Aggregate employee remuneration	9,133	8,872
Agency and other staff cost	745	885
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	9,878	9,757
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The number of employees whose remuneration as defined for taxation purposes amounted to over £60,000 in the year was as follows:

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
£60,001 - £70,000	2	1
£80,001 - £90,000	-	1

Total pension fund contributions paid on behalf of the above amounted to £6,473 (2006: £2,818).

16 PENSION

The Refugee Council participates in the Pension Trust's Growth Plan, a multi-employer Pension Plan which is, in most respects, a money purchase arrangement but which has some guarantees. It is not possible in the normal course of events to identify the share of underlying assets and liabilities belonging to the individual participating employers. Accordingly, due to the nature of the Plan, the accounting charge for the period under FRS17 represents the contributions payable by the employer.

The last formal valuation of the Plan was performed at 30 September 2006 by a professionally qualified actuary. The valuation revealed that the assets of the Plan fell short of the accrued liabilities as at the valuation date equivalent to a past service funding level of 80%. The Actuary has not recommended an increase to employer contributions which are currently 5% and the charity is not aware of any plans to change future employer contribution rates.

Following a change in legislation in September 2005, there is a potential debt on the employer that could be levied by the Trustee of the Plan. The current policy of the Trustees' of the Plan is that this only applies to employers with pre October 2001 liabilities in the Plan. The debt is due in the event of the employer ceasing to participate in the Plan, ceasing to offer the Plan to its employees or the Plan winding up. The debt for the Plan as a whole is calculated by comparing the liabilities for the Plan (calculated on a buy-out basis, i.e. the cost of security benefits by purchasing annuity policies from an insurer, plus allowance for expenses) with the assets of the Plan. If the liabilities exceed assets there is a buy-out debt.

The leaving employer's share of the buy-out debt is the proportion of the Plan's pre October 2001 liability attributable to members who were or are in employment with the leaving employer as compared to the total amount of the Plan's pre October 2001 liabilities (relating to employment with all the currently participating employers). The leaving employers' debt therefore includes a share of any 'orphan' liabilities in respect of previously participating employers. The amount of the debt therefore depends on many factors including total Plan liabilities, Plan investment performance, the liabilities in respect of current and former employees of the employer, financial conditions at the time of the cessation event and the insurance buy-out market. The amounts of debt can therefore be volatile over time.

BRITISH REFUGEE COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2007

16 PENSION (continued)

Potential employer debt-contingent liability

The Refugee Council has been notified by the Pensions Trust of the estimated employer debt on withdrawal from the Plan based on the financial position of the Plan as at 30 September 2006. As of this date the estimated employer debt for the charity was £1,342,542. There is no current intention to leave the Plan and trigger the contingent liability.

17 TRUSTEES' EXPENSES	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Number of Trustees claiming expenses	6	4
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
	£'000	£'000
Trustees' expenses:		
Travelling expenses reimbursed	1	2
Trustee's indemnity insurance cover cost	-	4
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

None of the Trustees of the Council received any remuneration during the year (2006: £Nil).

18 OPERATING AND FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

The company is committed to paying the following amounts in respect of operating leases expiring:

	<u>2007</u> <u>Property</u> <u>£'000</u>	<u>2007</u> <u>Equipment</u> <u>£'000</u>	<u>2007</u> <u>Total</u> <u>£'000</u>	<u>2006</u> <u>Property</u> <u>£'000</u>	<u>2006</u> <u>Equipment</u> <u>£'000</u>	<u>2006</u> <u>Total</u> <u>£'000</u>
Within one year	-	-	-	-	11	11
Between two and five years	689	49	738	689	49	738
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
	689	49	738	689	60	749

19 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>funds</u> <u>£'000</u>	<u>Restricted</u> <u>funds</u> <u>£'000</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>funds</u> <u>£'000</u>
Funds balances at 31 March 2007 are represented by:			
Tangible fixed assets	258	79	337
Investments	25	-	25
Net current assets	2,260	2,428	4,688
Provisions for liabilities and charges	(209)	(566)	(775)
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Total net assets	2,334	1,941	4,275

BRITISH REFUGEE COUNCIL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2007

20 ANALYSIS OF NET FUNDS

	At 1 April <u>2006</u> £'000	<u>Cash flow</u> £'000	<u>Other non cash flows</u> £'000	<u>Exchange movement</u> £'000	At 31 March <u>2007</u> £'000
Cash in hand and at bank	3,975	3,034	-	-	7,009

BRITISH REFUGEE COUNCIL

APPENDIX 1

Grants payable < £1,000

	£'000
African Woman Group	0.80
An Viet Foundation	0.75
Barnet Refugee Service	0.60
Croydon Council	0.75
Exiled Writers Link	0.50
Greenwich Refugee Week Planning Group	0.70
Hammersmith & Fulham Refugee Forum	0.60
Hand in Hand Refugee & Homeless	0.80
Hillingdon Refugee Forum	0.52
Hounslow Refugee Artist Network	0.56
Indo-American Refugee & Migrant Organisation	0.50
Lachai Roi	0.85
London Link Radio	0.80
London Refugee Voice	0.64
Mungo Productions	0.65
Prolific Films Ltd	0.65
Refugees & the Arts Initiative	0.50
Salisbury World	0.80
Sierra Leone War Trust for Children	0.70
Sudanese Mothers for Peace	0.80
Sutton Refugee Network	0.85
The Women's Empowerment Project	0.85

15.0

Grants > £1,000

	£'000
Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minority (NICEM)	130
North of England Refugee Service	671
Refugee Action	103
Hackney City Farm	26
Newman College	22
Safehaven Yorkshire	201
University of Birmingham	40
UK Neric	38

1,231
