



Annual Report 2019

Voices Welcome

Reference and administrative details

Charity Number 1173490

Trustees:

Ben Saffell (Chair)

Bernard Scaife

Xenia Davis

Natalie Joanes (Appointed Jan 2020)

Kay Doragh (Appointed Jan 2020)

Helen Butterworth (resigned 5 February 2020)

Jess Ridgewell (resigned 28 October 2019)

Registered Address:

159 Stapleton Hall Road

London

N4 4QS

Bankers: Lloyds

Structure and Governance:

Voices Welcome is a registered charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) governed by its constitution.

The CIO was registered with the Charity Commission on 2 October 2018. Trustees are appointed by the existing trustees.

TRUSTEE REPORT

Charitable objects

The promotion of social inclusion for the public benefit among people who are refugees and asylum seekers who are socially excluded on the grounds of their social and economic position, by providing access to, and education, in choral music; and

To advance the education of the public education in the art and science of choral music by any means the trustees see fit, including through the presentation of public concerts and recitals.





Activities and Public Benefit

Voices Welcome creates singing opportunities with refugee communities in the UK.

Refugees in the UK can face a myriad of challenges leaving them vulnerable and isolated. Voices Welcome believes singing together can improve wellbeing, reduce social isolation and empower local communities to support each other.

Many refugees are unlikely to consider joining established singing groups, so Voices Welcome creates inclusive, safe and welcoming singing opportunities for all.

“This singing, it’s such an important part for our mental health”

Our team of dedicated volunteers form a crucial part of the team. They help participants to become integrated within their communities by forming valuable bonds with established local residents.

A Volunteer Coordinator - himself a volunteer - ensures that the team are supported and coordinated, and that every singing group and event has the volunteer team it needs.

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Achievements and performance

After being awarded a Big Lottery grant and appointing our first Music Director our first project launched in Southwark, South London, in Spring 2019. We have partnered with local refugee support centre, Southwark Day Centre for Asylum Seekers (SDCAS) to deliver singing sessions with refugees in the community.

A press release to mark the launch of our project around World Refugee Day in June 2019 resulted in an article in local paper Lambeth Life

Our experienced Music Director runs weekly sessions in the centre and our participants have enjoyed songs from Nigeria, South Africa and Senegal. Participants regularly share songs from their own cultures with the group helping to foster an atmosphere of trust, empathy and empowerment.

"It's so good for us as a choir for us to be able to sing songs from different cultures and to share songs from our own cultures. It makes us stronger."

This has led to two public performances. In July 2019 the group sang at a community open day organised by Surrey Docks City Farm and SDCAS. In December 2019, the group performed at the Copleston Centre's 'Gift of Christmas' event - an annual Christmas party hosted by the Copleston Centre for vulnerable members of the community.



**Voices
welcome**



Plans for the future

As we started 2020 our main plans were to look at funding options to ensure our Southwark project could continue beyond 2020 and explore ways to engage with more refugees in a our Southwark project.

We are also starting conversation with potential partner organisations for a second project.

As with so much activity, COVID-19 put a stop to much of this and indeed we had to suspend our Southwark project. Our partner organisation stopped many of its services and we were unable to run sessions with them.

The suspension of our activities does mean we have funds to continue with the project and as lockdown eases and our partner organisation starts to operate again and we will look to return to running sessions as soon as is practical and safe for us to do so.

Talks with potential second partner organisations were also put on hold and we plan to pick these up again later in 2020.



Financial review (including reserves policy)

The cash position at the end of 2019 was £7,348, of which £5,989 was restored funding and £1,359 was unrestricted. There were no other Monetary assets, Investment assets or Liabilities.

Our main source of funding has been the Big Lottery Awards grant, but we have been able to supplement this with over £1,700 raised from 3 runners in the Royal park Half Marathon. We were also chosen by the Co-op Communities Fund to be one of Southwark's beneficiaries for 2019-20

This was a strong position to be in and meant we could deliver our Southwark project for another 12 months and allowed us time to explore other funding opportunities to ensure it continued beyond this.

The COVID crisis has not altered this situation. As our activities stopped so did our expenditure. This means the financial impact has been minimal and we remain in strong position to deliver our projects with our partner organisation again once it is safe to do so.

The nature of our activities means that projects will be reliant on grant funding for at least the first 2 years of their life. Whilst we plan This brings with it a risk of funding running out and a project having to stop.

Our fundraising policy is to be proactive in ensuring continuous grant funding to avoid this. Alongside this our reserves policy is to have enough funds to maintain projects for 3 months should we experience a gap in grant funding. We think this will allow enough time for other funding bids or sources of income to be secured so we can continue to deliver projects.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

1 October 2018 to 31 Decemebr 2019

	Unrestricted funds 2019	Restricted funds 2019	Total funds 2019	2018
Receipts				
Big Lottery Funding	-	9,912	9,912	-
Donations	2,014	-	2014	159
Gift Aid	172	-	172	-
Total receipts	2186	9912	12098	159
Payments				
MD fee	-	3,844	3,844	-
Instruments	-	79	79	-
Website	113	-	113	-
Insurance / Membership	183	-	183	-
Fundraising	690	-	690	-
Total payments	986	3923	4909	0
Net of receipts/(payments)	1200	2989	7189	159
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Cash funds last year end	159	-	159	-
Cash funds this year end	1359	5989	7348	159

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

1 October 2018 to 31 Decemebr 2019

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
Cash funds			
Cash at bank	1358	5,989	-
Total cash receipts	1358	5989	-
Other Monetary assets	-	-	-
Investment assets	-	-	-
Liabilities	-	-	-