



# Annual Report 2020

# 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)

### **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”

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

The first 3 months on 2020 saw us continue to build on the success of 2019 delivering 9 singing sessions with refugees in the community, with our partner Southwark Day Centre for Asylum Seekers (SDCAS).

We also started to explore potential partner organisations and funding opportunities to establish a second project.

The Covid-19 pandemic and national lock down meant we had to suspend all sessions as of 16th March .

As restrictions changed singing in groups was possible at various points in 2020, but we took the decision to not restart any sessions:

- SDCAS opened for limited hours and to deliver essential services only.
- The space we normally used was not suitable for singing during the pandemic, being small and poorly ventilated.
- As such continuing to offer sessions through SDCAS was not practical. As delivery through a partner has always been central to our approach the Trustees decided to continue to suspend sessions for the remainder of 2020 and until a safe return was possible within Covid restrictions and the wider operations of SDCAS.

## Plan for the future

As Covid restrictions remained in place resuming sessions is still not viable.

The suspension of our activities does mean we have funds to continue with the project. As the situation changes we hope to start some activities again in the second half of 2021, once it is practical and safe for us to do so.

We also plan to pick up conversations with potential second partner organisations later in 2021. The priority will be to understand their service deliver priorities and how we can work with, support and add to what they do.

We are also taking stock of the ever shifting funding landscape to understand where potential future opportunities lie.

Finally, we have a runner for the Royal Parks Half Marathon in 2021 to further help us build our unrestricted funds and reserves position.





## Financial review (including reserves policy)

The cash position at the end of 2020 was £8,978.17, of which £4,314.95 was restored funding and £4,663.22 was unrestricted. There were no other Monetary assets, Investment assets or Liabilities.

Our main source of funding has been the Co-op Communities Fund. We were one of Southwark's beneficiaries for 2019-20 and raised £3,589.40 through this fund in 2020.

Covid has had little impact on finances. Suspending activities meant our expenditure was very low, and at the same time were able to add to our income, primarily through the Co-op funding. This puts us in a strong position to deliver more projects once the circumstances allow.

The nature of our activities means that projects will be reliant on grant funding for at least the first 2 years of their life. 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. This is to 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 January 2020 to 31 Decemeber 2020

	Unrestricted funds 2020	Restricted funds 2020	Total funds 2020	2019
<b>Receipts</b>				
Big Lottery Funding	-	-	-	9,912
Donations	318	-	-	2,014
Gift Aid		-	-	172
Co-op	3,589	-	-	-
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>3,908</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,908</b>	<b>12,098</b>
<b>Payments</b>				
MD fee	-	1,674	1,674	3,844
Instruments	-	-	-	79
Website	-	-	-	113
Insurance / Membership	183	-	183	183
Fundraising	420	-	420	690
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>1,674</b>	<b>2,277</b>	<b>4,909</b>
Net of receipts/(payments)	3,305	(1,674)	1,631	7,189
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Cash funds last year end	1,359	5,989	7,348	159
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>4,663</b>	<b>4,315</b>	<b>8,978</b>	<b>7,348</b>

# STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

1 January 2020 to 31 Decemeber 2020

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
<b>Cash funds</b>			
Cash at bank	4,663.228	4,314.95	-
<b>Total cash receipts</b>	<b>4,663.22</b>	<b>4,314.95</b>	-
<b>Other Monetary assets</b>	-	-	-
<b>Investment assets</b>	-	-	-
<b>Liabilities</b>	-	-	-

