



## **Chair's Report**

DAR started with a small group of likeminded people who felt they had to respond to the humanitarian crisis developing in the Middle East following the war in Syria. Working with Darlington Borough Council we welcomed 12 Syrian refugee families; resettled through the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme. Within weeks of the last six Syrian families arriving in November 2016 Darlington also became a dispersal area for asylum seekers. We made links with G4S and British Red Cross to help support asylum arrivals.

In January 2017 we became a registered charity. This is our first annual report. Over the year we have undergone some much needed structural change. We now have Trustees and an Executive Committee including team leaders for Fundraising, Asylum, Language Support, Mentoring and Safeguarding, Donations, Media, Campaign and Drop-ins.

With our support, the refugees have begun to make a home for themselves in Darlington. They have accessed training and gained important voluntary work experience. Refugees and asylum seekers have participated in community events such as the fashion show organised by Celebrating Communities, the Darlington Peace walk, the Community Carnival and the Great Get Together in South Park. Refugees and asylum seekers have with our support gained voluntary work experience with, among others: Firthmoor Community Centre, Friends of South Park and the British Red Cross.

A highlight of the year for me was the Taste of Syria evening where the public were treated to traditional food cooked by our Syrian families and entertained by their singing and dancing. At this event we also raised £560 as a donation for the White Helmets – the unarmed Syrian Civil Defence organisation.

DAR members worked hard at fundraising with four main events: a cake stall at the Community Carnival, Providing Teas at the Manor Gardens 'pick your own flowers' Open Days throughout the summer, a Folk Evening at the Traveller's Rest and a wreath making workshop just before Christmas. We are also grateful for the donations received from Rotary, Lions, The Darlington West WI and The Soroptimists and the many members of the public who have responded to our appeals through social media. Holy Trinity Church and the Quakers have allowed us to use their facilities for drop-ins and meetings and Darlington Churches Together have responded to requests for household items.

DAR has concerns for unaccompanied asylum seeking children who are stranded in Europe. In conjunction with the council we have held two fostering events to encourage more people to consider becoming foster carers or offer supported lodgings. Gulwali Passarlay, author of "The Lightless Sky" was kind enough to come along and talk about his arduous journey to Britain from Afghanistan and his experience as an unaccompanied child asylum seeker in the care system here. These events have resulted in several families being trained as foster carers by Darlington Borough Council.

In May we received the Best of Darlington Award for "contribution to the community" and it was good to have some of the Syrian women with us to accept the award.

Good friendships have developed between DAR members and those we support. Our members have worked extremely hard to help those who have needed it, often going the extra mile. This is reflected in the comments of some of the people we have supported.

Amena – “I just want to thank DAR for helping me. They were like my family. DAR should help families find volunteer work so that language improves and helps them to integrate with the community.”

Mouhyedin – “I am grateful to all the members of DAR they have helped us. All the members are wonderful.”

Anas - “My experience with DAR was excellent. Good people helped us adapt to a new country. We were very happy with the people from DAR. They are doing voluntary work to help the refugees.”

In the coming year we aim to continue to develop our language support by recruiting more tutors. We want to continue to work with other agencies who support asylum seekers and to increase our support for refugee causes outside of this country.

**Fran Wood**

**March 2018**



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Darlington Assistance for Refugees

1170986

## Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period  
from

01/01/2017

To

31/12/2017

### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Donation	3,173	-	-	3,173	-
Fundraising	3,296	-	-	3,296	-
Collection for White Helmets	-	560	-	560	-
Book Sales	-	433	-	433	-
Bus Hire	-	300	-	300	-
Interest	8	-	-	8	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>6,477</b>	<b>1,293</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,770</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>6,477</b>	<b>1,293</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,770</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Translation Expenses	419	-	-	419	-
Stationery, Printing & Postage	245	-	-	245	-
Bus Hire	-	300	-	300	-
Insurance	224	-	-	224	-
Household Goods	2,310	-	-	2,310	-
Travel Costs	210	-	-	210	-
Fundraising Expenses	543	-	-	543	-
Donation to White Helmets	-	560	-	560	-
ICO Fees	70	-	-	70	-
Rent - Storage Unit	158	-	-	158	-
NE Regional Employee DBS checks	58	-	-	58	-
Celebrations & Catering Costs	840	-	-	840	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>5,076</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,936</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>5,076</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,936</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>1,401</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,834</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>3,707</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,707</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>5,108</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,541</b>	<b>-</b>

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

### B1 Cash funds

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
Petty Cash	75	-	-
Bank Account - Darlington Credit Union	1,848	-	-
Bank Account - Co-Operative	3,184	433	-
<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>5,108</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>-</b>

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

### B2 Other monetary assets

Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

### B3 Investment assets

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


### B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

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

### B5 Liabilities

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

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Fran Wood	Apr-18