

English + Cash Accounts 2017

Income

One off Donations	£8,845.05
Regular Donors	£20,701.00
Projects	£31,234.00
Directed funds	£21,796.97
Student contribution	£188.00
	<u>£82,765.02</u>

Expenditure

Contractor /sessionsal workers	£18,305.79
Employed staff	£31,529.92
Overheads	£3,022.02
Travel & student support	£6,233.15
Miscellaneous	£768.24
Directed funds	£9,354.90
	<u>£69,214.02</u>

English+ became a charity in 2017 after growing from a vision to meet the needs of those isolated through a lack of English language.

Prior to gaining charity status English+ had been already running for 4 years, providing free English lessons to the isolated and marginalised in Norwich. The + (plus) comes from the work to help this same group of individuals with issues that could not be purely solved by better English. Many, but not exclusively, were asylum seekers and refugees, brought to Norwich by the Home Office with health (mental & physical), housing, access to volunteering and employment, and financial problems. In cooperation with organisations such as the Red Cross, City Reach, Churches & other faith groups, and many more in the voluntary sector, English+ was there to help support this vulnerable group and facilitate them to integrate into the local community.

Structured English lessons are provided two mornings a week at different locations across Norwich. The lessons are delivered by skilled volunteers in a mix of individual and group classes. Volunteers who teach all have relevant teaching qualifications, and are supported by other volunteer assistants. Once a week a less formal Conversation class is held, to help build people's confidence in speaking and socialising. There is a weekly Art and Craft group supported by English+, attended by many students but also anyone from the local community, which provides an ideal setting for integration and language practice.

These weekly sessions reach approximately 150 individuals a month. English+ also supports its students to attend courses run by the local Further Education College where they can achieve certificated results to help them into employment. In the summer the families also benefit through a weekly programme of outings and activities for all ages.

A recent innovation has been the introduction of short courses to help with access to work and skills development and to increase people's confidence and ability to integrate. These include driving theory test preparation, food hygiene and women's swimming classes. These courses have been initiated at the request of our service users.

Partnership is an important part of the vision of English+. For the last 3 years we have been partially funded by the Big Lottery as one of three organisations making up the Norwich Integration Partnership (NIP). The other two charities in the partnership are New Routes and The Bridge Plus+. This partnership had the privilege of being the Norwich Civic Charity 2017-18, supported by the Lord Mayor and Sherriff of Norwich. As a partnership we have been awarded a further 3 years of funding by the Big Lottery to cover some of our work. The impact of this partnership has been a clearer pathway and a higher quality of support for refugees and asylum seekers in Norwich through greater cooperation leading to better outcomes for clients.

Outside of NIP there are other important collaborations around health, immigration, education and well being with City Reach Asylum Support Team, Norwich International Youth Project, the Red Cross, Adult Learning Services and City College Norwich. Other relationships within the charity sector are equally important such as with the Norwich Justice and Peace Group, City Saints in Action, Hala's House to Home and Besom to help meet the needs of clients. We have partnered with local charities and schools on specific projects such as with St Thomas Trust and Norwich Food Bank to provide Christmas Food Parcels for the asylum seekers living in Norwich, and with Refugee Week activities. English+ has also been instrumental in establishing Norwich as a City of Sanctuary, which

is part of a national initiative to encourage an atmosphere of welcome and support within local communities.

English+ is coordinated and managed on a day-to-day basis by Rosie Sexton. Rosie had the vision and drive to set up English+ in response to the needs she recognised for integration and support of those living in Norwich isolated by their lack of English language. English+ employs another part time Project Worker, Lauren, who coordinates the teaching, leads City of Sanctuary and a local network of service providers to this sector as well as supporting clients. Two other people provide services to English+ on a sessional basis, Sarah works 15 hours a week coordinating and liaising with other groups and running the conversation class. Nicky coordinates the administration and financial side of English+. This core team meet regularly to support each other, discuss issues, plan future developments and review ongoing projects. Over 25 other individuals give their time and expertise to help this team whether it is in teaching, making the coffee at the lessons, helping with grant bids or preparing food for celebrations. Some of the individuals who come as clients return as volunteers for specific events.

The charity receives funds from a variety of sources. We have received regular donations from individuals, churches and a Trust, as well as income from fundraising activities. The Big Lottery provides some funds through the Norwich Integration Partnership. English+ has also submitted successful funding applications to grant making bodies. While the Norwich Integration Partnership was Norwich Civic Charity, the Lord Mayor and Sherriff raised significant amounts of funds to support the work of the partners. Our aim is to grow the work of English+ through on-going income generating activities in order to meet the increasing demand for our services. There is a financial statement attached to this report.

The work of English+ is overseen by a board of trustees, who meet 4-5 times a year. In post are-

Chair of Trustees- David Wormald

Acting Treasurer- Paul Henery

Elizabeth Parfit and Barbara Drake

The trustees have responsibility for the governance of the charity and have recently put in place a number of policies to help and guide the workers and volunteers. English+ is an employer, with relevant employment policies in place. The trustees recognise the need to continually develop the skill set of the group and are actively seeking trustees with specific skills to aid the charity continue to develop and grow. All the trustees have a passion to see the marginalised and isolated enabled to fully integrate into society.

The impact of English+ on the lives of those who are isolated by language is not an easily measurable but here are the figures for the last year-

Classes: Weekly during term times we run 4 hours of English classes, 2 hours conversation and 2 hours conversation through art and craft. Up to 60 students attend these classes, and over a week we see in excess of 100 individuals.

Short courses: 3 x 6 week Driving Theory courses, 1 x 6 week Food Hygiene Level 2 course, 2 ladies only swimming classes.

Activities: During the summer holiday a programme of outings and activities is organised exploring Norfolk and the city of Norwich. This year over 70 adults and 60 children attended activities.

Interventions: This year staff have already spent over 200 hours offering 1-to-1 assistance to students, on issues ranging from help with housing, referrals for immigration, education, legal and health to helping with access to further education, work, training and volunteering.

Helping individuals take huge steps, such as gaining their refugee status, or smaller steps, such as gaining the confidence to ask for things in shops, is the privilege that being part of English+ gives to those involved whether paid, volunteer, supporter or trustee.

David Wormald

Chair of Trustees, English+

September 2018