

Friends of the Drop in for Asylum Seekers and Refugees

Reg'd charity no: 1176524

**Trustees' Report
and
Financial Statement
for the year ended
31 March 2019**

Legal and Administrative Information

Name: **Friends of the Drop in for Asylum Seekers and Refugees**

Charity no: 1176524

Structure: Registered Charity

Directors of FODI:

Stephen Newman (From April 2018)

Felicity Livsey

Jane Nikolarakis (From April 2018)

Zeinab Cummings

Kathleen Hines

Tolosa Tadesse

Abraham Eiluorior

Zara Juma

Kojoe Otoo

Address: Unit 10 Bridge house
Bridge St
Sunderland
SR1 1TE

Bankers: Cooperative Bank & Santander Bank.

Independent Examiner: Mark Thompson MAAT
42 Lesbury Road
Newcastle
NE6 5LB

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

**Report to the
trustees of**

**Friends of the Drop in for Asylum Seekers
and Refugees**

**On accounts for
the year ended**

31 March 2019

Charity no 1176524

**Respective
responsibilities of
trustees and
examiner**

The trustees of the organisation are responsible for the preparation of accounts; they consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 and that an Independent Examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts (under section 145 of the 2011 Act),
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act), and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of
independent
examiner's
statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

**Independent
examiner's
statement**

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:
 - proper accounting records are kept (in accordance with section 130 of the Act); and
 - accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date: 9 June 2019

Name: Mark Thompson
Address: 42 Lesbury Road
Newcastle
NE6 5LB

Date: 31 May 2019

FRIENDS OF THE DROP-IN FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES Registered Charity No. 1176524

Trustees' Annual Report for year 1.4.2018 to 31.3.2019

Friends of the Drop-in (FODI) has the following purposes:

We aim to improve the mental health and the well-being of the asylum-seeking and refugee community in Sunderland, lessening their social isolation and promoting their integration into the wider community, by supporting and extending the activities of the Drop In currently run on Wednesday afternoons.

We seek to provide opportunities for the clients of the Drop-In to participate in wider societal activities of a suitable nature.

We seek to extend links with the wider community giving our clients opportunities to interact with others. We seek to work in partnership with other local organisations/groups to further this aim.

Funding : We have been supported for the year under review by the NHS Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group, Lloyds Bank Foundation, Community Foundation New Beginnings, Hadrian Trust, The Hospital of God at Greatham, Seedbed, Community Foundation Linden Family Fund, the Sir James Knott Trust, Cultural Spring and Durham Community Foundation Tampon Tax Fund as well as most welcome donations from a range of organisations and individuals.

We have a full-time Project Development Worker (PDW), Sandra Watt, who continues to develop FODI projects as listed below and to work in partnership with other organizations in Sunderland who support asylum seekers and refugees.

Volunteers:

Our volunteers include both locals and clients. We have a very committed team who work in a variety of roles at the Drop In, the women's group, the bike project, collecting donated food and representing FODI at events and speaking to schools and local groups. We have continued to recruit volunteers from our client group to take on all these roles and for some to become trustees. We recruited an additional bike volunteer who has now taken over the project. Our recruitment of local people as volunteers has meant we have a strong committed team, but we are always in need of new volunteers as many of our current volunteers and trustees have been involved for many years in FODI and will need to retire in the future.

NEW VOLUNTEERS

Throughout the year our Project Worker has done volunteer inductions for 10 new volunteers.

Clients:

Dispersal to Sunderland was capped at the request of the local council to the Home office in June 2018. Since that time, they have operated a one-in one-out policy – applying to individuals and families. Official figures for December 2018 show Sunderland has 395 asylum seekers including all adults and children. They live in various parts of the city with many of the families living further out and can only access the city centre by bus. Our February Drop In survey showed we have clients from 34 countries that speak 27 different languages. Due to about one third of clients getting leave to remain and a similar number having cases closed or being temporarily made homeless, we have still had 196 new clients who registered with FODI during this period.

THE DROP IN

The Drop In had an annual average attendance of 124 but several week high numbers were recorded of 140-150 attendees.

FODI has extended the range of service providers attending the Drop In to include weekly attendance of G4S, Gentoo Housing association, a return of SCC housing department, regular visits by the police CEOs. As well as the continuing presence of North East Law Centre and a solicitor from a Newcastle-based firm of immigration solicitors to provide access to legal advice. British Red Cross and the North of England Refugee Service both outreach into the Drop-In each week, to tackle problems surrounding access to NASS support, problems with housing and move on for new refugees. Occasional visits are also made by Lifestyle, health teams such as Healthy steps BME network project, ICOS for employment help, Sexual health and Lifestyle Active and food programmes.

Welcome and Orientation

All new arrivals are given their first welcome at the Drop In by volunteers with volunteer interpreters. G4s and Jomast give new arrivals information at their houses for the FODI Drop In to direct people for help and to register. A volunteer is continuing to visit all the new families to offer practical and moral support. Where needed these visits continue over a period and we liaise with the GP surgeries and the LEA to establish that children and families are registered for doctors and school. These visits have made a significant difference to isolated families who do not understand the system.

We continue to provide a translated FODI welcome letter and new arrivals information guide which has essential information on one sheet of where new arrivals can find help as well as activities that specifically welcome refugees. (Further translations are needed for the future)

Northumbria Police have continued to run sessions for us, to help asylum seekers navigate their way round in the community. These are organised in single language groups, aided by our own volunteer interpreters. The sessions cover topics such as reporting hate crime, age of consent, and consensual sex. These are currently translated into 8 languages and funding will be sought from available regional projects to extend this.

ACTIVITIES

As well as the ongoing social activities of games (pool, table tennis, chess, etc.), and the distribution of donated food and clothing at the Drop In itself. We have organised or signpost to the following:

English classes: We continue a good partnership with Action Language referring all new arrivals to them if they need ESOL and one member of their team visits the Drop In each week to meet new clients and arrange testing. We also work with Sunderland College and attend their Equality and Diversity committee.

Bike Project

We continue to provide donated bikes for our clients to enable them to get around the city when they cannot afford the bus fares and to help them stay fit. Our main bike volunteer worked tirelessly to do more than 50 major bike repairs as well as minor advice and care to those who have received a bike. He also trained an additional bike volunteer to take over from him knowing he would have to leave on gaining employment. As well as individual donors, we were fortunate to receive 30 bikes from Recycle yer Bike in Byker, Newcastle. Consequently, we have given out more than 40 bikes in the last 12 months. We also applied for funding with Sunderland Quakers to fund the future of this project and have been informed this money will be available for repairs for 2019-20.

Gym, Swimming and Soft Play Activities for children: An average of 40 people per week take advantage of the opportunity to keep fit both physically and mentally by visiting the local gym facilities, this is funded by FODI CCG activities fund. The Aquatic centre has been very supportive, giving us free family swim passes, free swimming days, and some free soft play vouchers for children.

Supporting Sunderland AFC: We welcome the 10 tickets that SAFC kindly gives us for their home games and one of our volunteers organizes attendance at these match days.

Football: Some of our clients continue to play football with YAV but on a less formal basis using one of their drop-in sessions. FODI intends to do more work with YAV when they take over the Sans Street centre. However, a successful 5 a side football tournament took place at the Beacon of Light involving 16 teams – 3 of which were FODI members.

Women's Group: Funding continued from Hospital of God at Greatham, the Hadrian Trust, and the Linden Family Fund administered by the Community Foundation for Tyne and Wear. These funds cover room hire, a crèche, materials, some exercise classes and bus fares. Additional funding came from Cultural Spring for the delivery of some art sessions. Approximately one third of asylum seekers in Sunderland are now families, so this group is much appreciated as a centre where women make friends and offer mutual support. They have enjoyed Zumba, paper cutting and other arts and craft activities detailed below. The women have planned several of their own activities. The women's group is only possible due to the ongoing commitment of four dedicated volunteers.

The women's group continued their work with Cultural Spring on arts activities as well as completing dance, exercise and cooking directed by their own requests. FODI volunteers and staff member also delivered some art workshops on book making and silhouettes. They also worked with an artist to do a range of paper cutting creation making beautiful creations from paper to take home and brighten up otherwise dull living spaces.

As a record of this art journey with refugee women Counterpoint arts were commissioned to make a film of the work of Cultural Spring in collaboration with FODI called Groundwork. This was shown at the Tate Exchange London Who Are We? project in May 2018. A group of FODI members and volunteers went with Cultural spring to the exhibition and took part in a panel discussion about art and asylum seekers as well as enjoying the multimedia presentations from other groups.

B'active b'fit teacher Diane Carter continues a close understanding relationship with the women and as well as paying for some classes from our funding, the company gave us another extra 10 free sessions as part of their charity arm.

Community Project ROKER LIFE

FODI has continued to work with the URC church in Roker to support the development of their community-based project called Roker Life that aims to bring the Roker community into contact with asylum seekers in Sunderland. They ran another successful playscheme assigning half of the 30 places to children from asylum seeker families and paid all the bus fares.

The children worked again with social chef, dance teachers and sports facilitators and at the same time some families and parents were encouraged to join the ongoing gardening project. A number of FODI clients worked on the gardening project over the last year to help build a disabled access raised bed, lay a path and clear the overgrowth in the garden. Roker Life organized half term activities to which all our clients were invited and a huge event for the Tall ships for which many attended. The warm welcome they receive there definitely encourages all to travel even if they do not live in the Roker area.

Social Chef Cookery Classes: Due to the success of the initial Social Chef project, FODI funded a further 8 sessions for a mixed group of women and men who had a very successful course. Both participants and chef facilitator gave very positive feedback on the experience. The Social Chef then acquired funding for a further session for Friday afternoons which was well attended by FODI women's group participants who were able to go straight from the women's group to the cooking sessions. This proved to be another joyous success for all participants who enjoyed sharing their own cultural recipes as well as learning British ones. Further funding is being sought to continue this collaboration. It has helped to consolidate Roker Life as a community group dedicated to working with the asylum seeker community.

Visits

FAMILY TRIPS

A family trip was made at Easter 2018 to the Life Centre in Sunderland where the families enjoyed a rare opportunity to visit a science based educational facility using our CCG fund. They were able to do workshops, see dinosaur exhibits and do lab experiments amongst the many opportunities on offer.

There was also a family trip to Rainton Meadows nature reserve in the summer where the educational team provided a range of outdoor nature studies including pond dipping and bug hunting. Families were able to enjoy a day out of the city in open natural space benefitting parents and children alike.

MEN'S TRIP TO KESWICK

One of the FODI trustees and a former volunteer fulfilled a long-held wish to take a group of our clients on a field trip to the Lake District. Through very careful planning this was achieved at minimum cost but with maximum effect. So, 16 people in total stayed in the Keswick youth hostel in May 18 and enjoyed four days of exceptionally good weather. They enjoyed an amazing opportunity to go walking in the mountains, climbing waterfalls and boating on the lake as well as social evenings of games and relaxing in a holiday atmosphere. The experience as a whole helped relieve the stress and mental strain of asylum seeker life and its uncertainties. FODI would wish if possible to provide more opportunities to take people out into the countryside for their well being.

PENRITH PROJECT COLLABORATION

The visit to the Lake District also established links with the newly formed Penrith and Eden Network. The project encourages new refugees to go and live and work in Penrith where labour force is needed and an understanding and welcoming community exists. The group has had two 5 day Penrith experience projects focusing on English for employment as well as craft, social and outward bound activities. Eight clients and one of our volunteers have taken part in these well organized ventures and a former FODI client now lives and works there.

Additional activities

Forgiveness Art Project at the Glass Centre

All the participants of the 2017 Peace project with Carrie Fertig at the Glass centre were invited back to hear of a new art project for exhibition on forgiveness. This included the three previous groups, FODI refugees, Forward Assist veterans and Essence project dementia clients and their carers. With interpreters, people listened to the concept which came out of an idea suggested by the peace project. Those who chose to take part were invited by Carrie to tell stories of forgiveness in either written or oral recordings. A small number of clients took part in this with volunteer translators and found it a moving experience.

Tall Ships

FODI was asked to take part in the Tall Ships event in Sunderland in July 2018. We provided musicians for a stage and one of our volunteers covered the whole week for SPARK radio as part of his ongoing involvement with the community radio at the University. More than 20 clients also did group tours of the ships and had many shared conversations about travel and some of their own experiences – many of which were forced by their circumstances.

Xmas Party: Our Christmas Party is always popular, and 200 people attended for hot food, children's entertainer and gifts all round. We were funded for this by several very generous donations and the use of unallocated funds.

Clients in Need

FODI continued to use Seedbed money to fund urgent needs for travel to the Home Office for interviews in Newcastle or for the destitute to sign in Middlesbrough, visits to the hospital or a solicitor. Some of this money was also used to help buy uniform for our growing number of children, especially in secondary school where no secondhand uniform was available. From Jan 19, the low funds available meant we could now only assist the homeless or Section 4 clients.

We continue to give food parcels to the homeless through regular donations of food and money to buy required food items. We also continue to support 4 destitute clients who live in the Washington house maintained through Action Foundation.

Voice in the Community:

Information sessions

FODI presents a number of sessions for local groups and educational establishments on why asylum seekers come to the UK and the reality of conditions of life for them here in Sunderland.

These sessions are presented by asylum seekers, refugees and volunteers. Examples are: a presentation and discussion with politics students at Sunderland University; presentation to Sunderland College barbering students (who continue to provide a free barbering service for us), Amnesty International, local rotary club, and local schools. Feedback from these sessions accords with the findings on refugee research websites, which state that the biggest impact in influencing attitudes is to meet a refugee not to read a myth buster. We shall continue with further similar sessions and seek new invitations.

Refugee Week celebrated 20 years of its existence with 20 Simple Acts.

As in the previous year, our Project Development Worker co-ordinated the planning of events with those organisations wishing to take part in Refugee Week. These included City of Sanctuary, SCC, Gentoo, Fightback, Young Asian Voices, Women Of the World and the BME network. Events included the 'Walk of Sanctuary', A song for Music in Detention, Visits to Schools, Refugees got Talent, Tea with a Refugee and a celebration evening of diverse cultures through food, dance and music.

Access to Health

HEALTH

Midwives: Our worker and our welcome and orientation volunteer who visit new families set up a training session with the midwives in Sunderland East team. As well as presenting the facts around what asylum seeker women and their babies are entitled to, including information on their no-choice housing, they answered the many queries of the midwives about the limited support available to these women.

First Aid: The Red Cross delivered a peer to peer training session at the women's group on emergency first aid. Each attendee receives a pack and certificate of completion. It is hoped to deliver specialist pediatric first aid in the future.

LAF – Lifestyle, Active and Food. The LAF team work with children who are overweight and need advice on healthy eating and regular exercise. They delivered a family session during the holidays for our women's group with their children and brought the smoothie bike to both that group and the Drop In for all our adults to try. They also gave out free swim passes to our clients.

Zumba – Keep Active delivered two lots of 6 Zumba sessions for women only as part of a wellness programme to combat social isolation. FODI asylum seekers joined local residents for fast paced Zumba classes at both Pallion and later in the summer holidays at Bede campus. These were thoroughly enjoyed with very positive feedback from all participants.

Move On

Our volunteers and our worker have done a lot of work with clients who have been granted their status. FODI has worked closely with Sunderland Council on understanding their new housing guidelines and continues to work closely with Gentoo on the registering of new clients requiring accommodation. We also work closely with Action Letting who take referrals for single male refugees needing accommodation in Sunderland.

FODI has also worked with the other agencies in Sunderland to support new refugees to register for and understand the system of Universal Credit. The DWP have tried to be as accommodating as possible during this transition, although the biggest stumbling block for many new refugees has, as before, been obtaining a bank account. Dialogue has continued with Lloyds and other banks over required forms of ID.

We also refer clients to Fightback who support disabled refugees and asylum seekers. and our work with Action Foundation has resulted in their housing a number of people who have been granted status in supported housing, and 4 people in housing for people who are totally destitute and homeless

Partnerships with other organisations: We continue to work closely with many other local organisations: ICOS (International Community of Sunderland) the local police, local health and mental health services, MESMAC, Crossings, Sunderland BME network, colleagues in many local churches, City of Sanctuary, Young Asian Voices, Tyne and Wear Fire services etc.

Information on our activities can be found in our newsletter, a webpage and a Facebook account, (both maintained by our volunteers and our member of staff) to ensure that what we can give information, news, etc. to a wider audience.

There have been no serious incidents.

In organising and running these activities, we have borne in mind the duties set out in the Commission’s public benefit guidance and believe we have complied with these.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:

Kathleen Hines, chair.....

Felicity Livsey, treasurer.....

Friends of the Drop in for Asylum Seekers and Refugees

Income & Expenditure Account

		2018-19	
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Notes			£
Receipts	4		
Transfer from previous Charity	19884	60731	80615
Grants		43097	43097
Donations & Sundry Income	5070		5070
Refugee Week			
Total Receipts	24954	103828	128782
Payments			
Salaries		25220	25220
Payroll Charges		120	120
Client Activities	1437	5969	7406
Client Travel	229	6502	6731
Creche	95	2755	2850
Volunteer Expenses	13	2224	2237
Food	165	2595	2760
Hardship Payments	2469	483	2952
Rent & Room Hire	120	3610	3730
Other General Running Costs		1485	1485
Electricity		509	509
Telephone & Internet		701	701
Training		175	175
Insurance		308	308
Accountancy		396	396
Legal & Professional	1592	660	2252
Total Payments	6120	53712	59832
Surplus/Deficit for the period	18834	50116	68950
Total Funds at 31 March 2019	18834	50116	68950

Friends of the Drop in for Asylum Seekers and Refugees

**Statement of assets and liabilities
at 31 March 2019**

	Notes	2019 £
Monetary Assets		
Cash at Bank and in Hand		68950
Total Cash Balances		68950
Assets less Liabilities		68950
Represented by	5	
Unrestricted Funds		18834
Restricted Funds		50116
Total Funds		68950

The financial statements were approved by the following members of the Management Committee :

Signed Position

Signed Position

Date

Friends of the Drop in for Asylum Seekers and Refugees

Notes to the accounts 2019

(1a) Basis of accounts

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) – Charities SORP (FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006

FODI meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

(1b) Legal Status

Friends of the Drop in for Asylum Seekers registered with The Charities Commission 4 January 2018, registered no. 1176524, as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Assets from Friends of the Drop in for Asylum Seekers (no 1153057) were transferred to the new charity.

(2) Trustees and Staff

One member of staff is employed. Total salary costs £25,340

(3) Costs of independent examination

The cost for the independent examination of accounts for the year will be £280

(4) Grants received in year

2019

Lloyds Foundation	20000
Sunderland CCG	15197
Co Durham Community Foundation	7800
Cultural Spring	100
Total Grants Received	43097

(5) Funds Analysis:

	Balance Transferred	Income	Expend	Transfer	Balance March 19
Sunderland City Council	20202		15042		5160
Lloyds Foundation	1264	20000	17480		3784
Sir James Knott	3000		3000		0
Co Durham Community Foundation		7800	1439		6361
Hospital of God at Greatham	289		289		0
Hadrian Trust	289		289		0
Community Foundation - Linden Family Fund	3200		3200		0
Community Foundation (New Beginnings)	1195		1195		0
Cultural Spring	0	100	100		0
City of Sanctuary/Seedbed	4648		2882		1766
Clinical Commissioning Group (1)	3440	15197	8796		9841
Clinical Commissioning Group (Project Development)	23204		0		23204
Restricted Funds	60731	43097	53712	0	50116
Unrestricted Funds	19884	5070	6120		18834
Total Funds	80615	48167	59832	0	68950