



Registered Charity no: 1158704

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ending 31 March 2019

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Annual report & accounts formally accepted at the
AGM of HOST Nottingham on Thursday 21 November 2019

Host Nottingham: A Brief History

Destitute asylum seekers are asylum seekers who have had their claims refused and because they are not entitled to work or receive any public funds or benefits of any kind, find themselves either sleeping rough on the streets or 'sofa surfing'. In effect, they are in limbo while they either submit a fresh asylum claim or wait for the authorities to return them back to their country of origin. In many cases this is not possible, as the country is deemed unsafe for them to be returned to. Even if the country is deemed 'safe' then removals can take many months, if not years. Many in these situations can experience mental health issues. Many also live in fear of being returned to their home countries to face persecution, imprisonment or even death. Many lead, and have led since their arrival, isolated lives and are in desperate need of help and support.

Host Nottingham was established in 2011 in response to the growing number of destitute asylum seekers who needed to have some short-term accommodation in the city and the need to provide a support network for informal hosts. In the last eight years we have hosted in excess of 150 guests and have had the privilege of working with more than 53 hosts.

We achieve our aims by recruiting and supporting volunteer 'hosts' who have a spare room where destitute asylum seekers and others, or 'guests' as they are called, can stay for a period of time while they work with our partner agencies to develop a future plan of action. The scheme is flexible and works around the needs of the 'host' families who offer a room for a week, a month or in many some cases considerably longer.

Many referrals come from the Anti-Destitution Coordinator at Nottingham & Nottinghamshire Refugee Forum (NNRF) with every potential guest being assessed to ensure that both they and their hosts are suitable (and compatible) regarding safety and physical and mental health issues. We also have guests, usually newly recognised refugees, referred from advisors at NNRF as well as referrals from other agencies including the British Red Cross.

These are all short-term placements and most of the guests are supported by staff and volunteers at the NNRF to ensure that their legal and other needs are being met. It is always hoped that there will be a place to which the guests can be referred, be that Section 4 or Section 95 or a place in one of the Nottingham Arimathea Trust properties.

Most guests are referred to and encouraged to attend the NNRF Anti-Destitution food and cash groups, which provide a food parcel and hot meal every Saturday, and £10 in cash for clients every 4 weeks. Guests who are newly recognised refugees are not entitled to access the Anti-Destitution project, and are referred to local Food Banks.

All guests are provided with a bus pass for around 10 days each month and some who are able to ride, can obtain bicycles. In addition, we aim to develop meaningful activities to stop days from becoming empty and endless, to bring some purpose and enjoyment into our clients' lives.

Host Nottingham is also actively involved with awareness raising and campaigning for a just asylum system, working closely with all our partners to tackle homelessness among asylum seekers and refugees in Nottingham.

Annual report – achievements & performance

Chair's Report

The past year has been another busy year when we have welcomed our new Project Coordinator, hosted more people, have welcomed new hosts, and partnered with other organizations. We have continued to realise the huge and increasing need for our organisation and places where destitute asylum seekers and newly recognised refugees can find a place to stay for a short time, where they will be welcomed, feel safe and help all of us involved to understand a little more about the battle which each one has had to try and find sanctuary in the UK.

Project Coordinator

We are delighted that Rebecca Kogan joined us in November last year. She had had considerable experience of supporting people seeking asylum in the UK and in particular had been an adviser at the Refugee Forum for some time. Rebecca works with us two days a week and the other part of her week she is a Case Worker with Paragon Law. Her report shows something of the work with which she has been involved and her reflections on the experiences that she has.

Trustees

Our Trustees meet every other month and I feel very privileged to have such deeply committed people, most of whom are or have been hosts themselves, who share deeply in many different aspects of the work of Host and its day to day running. I owe them a great debt and really value the support that they give. Maureen Harms joined us this year and has taken a particular role in working with other organisations to provide support in looking at ways in which we can do more to provide befriending and mentoring for our guests. We owe particular thanks to Stuart who works in the background raising funds for us and keeping our books in order.

Hosts

This year, as you will see from Rebecca's report, we have been able to recruit some more hosts which has been great. Many of our hosts who have been hosting for some time, have taken much needed breaks so we are always pleased to be able to welcome new hosts and are deeply grateful to all of our hosts for the work and support that they give.

Guests

Again we have been hosting an increasing number of newly recognised refugees as, having received their much longed for status as refugees, they face waiting weeks for Universal Credit, and sometimes longer to have interviews for housing, but yet are evicted from their Home Office accommodation before they have anywhere else to live. We still try not to take people at very short notice i.e. on the day that they are referred, but are aware that there are emergencies when clients have nowhere to stay and we are very grateful to our hosts who step in at only a few hours notice.

Clothes Bank

Rita, who co-ordinates the Clothes Bank, has written a report on their work. We are deeply grateful to all the volunteers who come and work in the Clothes Bank for two hours each day and we know from the numbers who come each week and the turnover of clothes, shoes and bedding the importance of this service. We have also had some

volunteers helping to revamp the Clothes Bank which has made more both space and a much nicer environment for clients to go and choose clothes. However, we still only have a limited amount of storage space so have to redirect some offers of clothes which are not suitable for our clients to Sharewear, but are very grateful for the donations which we receive. The numbers of refugees and asylum seekers accessing the Clothes Bank has increased from around 1,200 per year to 1,840 per year.

Activities during the year

We have had a number of special events this year which have helped to bring Host to the attention of the wider public. The following fundraising events took place:

- **Nottingham Swing Dance Society** raised in excess of £500 in December.
- **Meal at Crocus Café** which Jennie arranged for us in February. It was a really lovely evening with Egyptian food, mainly cooked by one of our Egyptian guests. This evening raised more than £800.
- **An Open Evening** was held in May to which a number of people came to learn more about Host and as a result we have had some new hosts and others who are considering it.
- **A Moroccan Evening** also took place in May, provided by Anna and Jane. The Forum Café was transformed into an amazing Moroccan space and we were served wonderful Moroccan food and entertained with Moroccan music. This event raised over £650 which was quite wonderful and we are deeply grateful to Anna and her all her friends who worked so hard to provide such a wonderful occasion.
- **Sponsored Swim.** On a very cold and wet day in June five extremely brave Trustees and supporters swam a mile in lake Windermere. It was an extremely challenging experience and they raised in excess of £5,500 which was amazing. Huge thanks for Lee, Tina, Jennie, Jan and Paul for this brave and outstanding effort.
- **A Wedding Gift** from Clive and Maralyn Billingham, one of our hosts and a Trustee, who asked for donations for Host at their wedding party in June. They shared more than £450 with us for which we are very grateful as well as wishing them both every happiness.

During the year we have also tried to spread information about Host through visits to other organisations and groups. We have spoken at a Labour Party Winter Gathering, Basford Baptist Church, Nottingham High School, Mother's Unions, Nightstop Open Evening, as well as other places. We have had a stall at Beeston and Sherwood Markets for a few Saturdays as well as the Green Festival. We have participated in the Homelessness Forum, Nottingham City Council Homelessness Stakeholder Forum, Lloyds Bank Foundation Networking Dinner and Strengthening Refugee Advocacy training.

Refugee Week

This year we did not have our own event during Refugee Week, but members of the Trustees attended a total of 11 events with a stall and opportunity to share information about Host. The opportunities and interest varied but it was felt to be helpful to have a presence at all these events. We were also very pleased to have an article in Left Lion which was published during Refugee week.

Future Developments

During the year we identified a number of areas of need that we felt should be developed and set about raising the funds so that we can start to tackle them in the next financial year. These were specifically related to:

- Workloads - increasing the hours of our part-time coordinator;
- Providing a 'hardship fund' that can be used when newly recognised refugees finally move into their own accommodation and who are unable to access financial support for basic repairs or second hand furnishings thereby making the accommodation fit for habitation;
- Increasing budgets for trustee, staff and volunteer 'training'; and volunteer expenses enabling us to provide more support to guests;
- Fresh claims – work with our partners to look at ways of supporting refused asylum seekers who desperately need legal advice to make a new asylum claim. Once they have a new claim then Host will be in a position to provide accommodation support for them thereby reducing the numbers who are destitute and street homeless. (See Project Coordinator's Report for a clear description of the issues)

Partnership Organisations

We have continued to value the support and opportunities for the Project Coordinator and members of the Trustees to share in activities with NACCOM (the No Accommodation Network) events. These have included the National Conference on Hosting, the East Midlands Hub, Conference on 'Funding your Project' and their AGM.

In conclusion, I would like to add a huge thank you to our funders, hosts, clothes bank volunteers and fellow Trustees for the vital work that they all do. The heart and soul of Host is the many compassionate volunteers who make it possible and the wonderful guests who share part of their lives with us. In these uncertain and hostile times it is more important than ever that we continue to confront the fundamental injustices that necessitate the work that we do.

Jane Henson

Project Coordinator's Report

It has been a busy and challenging year at Host. We have continued to see large numbers of people in desperate need of accommodation with no other options available to them. We have hosted over 20 people for over 500 nights this financial year. From April 2019 onwards we have hosted a further 21 people for more than 450 nights.

The vast majority of our placements this year have been newly recognised refugees (NRR) who have not had enough time to secure accommodation in the 28 days between their positive decision and the end of their asylum support (63%). Despite some improvements in the system, including the issue of National Insurance Numbers on Biometric Residence Permits (BRPs), the chronic housing shortage nationwide is being felt acutely here in Nottingham, where there are long waiting lists not only for council housing but also for hostel accommodation.

In contrast to this we have hosted a smaller proportion of refused asylum seekers (16%), even though there are still many people in urgent need of accommodation. Historically, in order to achieve a positive move-on and avoid host burn out, we have limited placements of refused asylum seekers to those who are making a fresh claim for asylum. They will be able to make an application for Section 4 accommodation once they have submitted new evidence in support of their asylum claim to the Home Office. In the past, the time between securing an appointment to make further submissions, having the Home Office accept an application for Section 4 support and actually moving into the Home Office provided accommodation was roughly three months. This, along with avoiding host burnout, has been the reason for limiting hosting placements to a maximum of three months.

Now, however, the wait for an appointment to make further submissions to the Home Office is getting longer. This is provided someone can manage to secure a solicitor at all. With the closure of the Legal Project at NNRF there are not enough solicitors in Nottingham doing fresh claim work. Without a legal route to regularising their status, asylum seekers are trapped in destitution with no way out. For Host that means little to no chance of a positive move on. The options are therefore as stark as hosting someone for years or decades, or knowingly evicting them into street homelessness.

One potential solution to this problem might be to have a pool of 'hosts' large enough such that we could move guests to a new placement after three months, thereby enabling us to accommodate guests for longer periods. At the moment we do not quite have the capacity for this. We have recruited seven more sets of hosts this year, which is a fantastic achievement. That is only enough, however, to keep numbers stable rather than increasing capacity, as other hosts are sometimes forced to step back or take breaks as a result of changes in their circumstances.

Recruitment remains challenging, although we have done a fantastic job this year, garnering a lot of interest both at Refugee Week and Nottingham Green Festival. Many thanks to the wonderful hosts and other volunteers who made it possible to have stalls at so many events this year. Hopefully there will be many more fruitful events and many more new hosts in the coming year.

Rebecca Kogan

Clothes Bank News

Volunteers come and go - move away, move on! There are 14 volunteers servicing the Host Clothes Bank at NNRF. A couple of our regular volunteers have 'sold' it to their friends who have joined us and we have two new workers who signed up as a result of our stall at the Green Festival.

The Clothes Bank is a small, designated area spilling out into the hall where asylum seekers and refugees come for advice. We are open Monday to Saturday for two hours so that clients can come and browse after they have seen an advisor.

Although we get many individual donations of clothing most of our stock comes from Sharewear to whom we are very grateful. A special thanks is also due to the 'Kwon Sale' at Trent Vineyard who provides us with children's clothing twice a year. This year we have received gym wear from Djanogly City Academy and school wear and sports shoes and 'lost property' from Ellis Guilford School, Nottingham High School and a number of other schools around Nottingham. Mrs. Stevenson continues to ask the congregation at her church in Mansfield for money before Christmas to purchase warm winter wear. A big thank you to all our donors.

We have continued with alterations to our small space to make it more 'customer friendly' and we are sure that it will continue to be a valuable asset to Host as well as all the Nottingham Refugee Forum clients in the coming year.

Rita Cannon
Clothes Bank Coordinator

Reflections from Hosts, Guests & Partners

Reflections from Hosts

We have hosted three people now, from Eritrea, Iran and Vietnam. They have all been very easy and we managed to communicate somehow, even though they had very little English. We spent a lot of time on our phones using Google Translate. Without exception our guests have been very clean and tidy and lived in our house making minimum intrusion and helping with cooking or tidying up after themselves immaculately. We haven't asked them directly about their experiences, but have researched the situations in their countries and learned a lot more about what's going on in the world. They have only been short-term stays (4 weeks, 2 weeks and 1 week) but we've been touched by their visits. One of them asked us, "How do you know I'm not a bad man?" Another wrote us a thank you letter, saying that what we had given him was a lesson about trust. Hosting works as an important reminder that we could be in their position one day.

Catherine

We have worked with host Nottingham since June 2018. During that time we have had four people staying with us from between 3 weeks to 6 months. We have counted it a privilege to be able to provide a home for people who would otherwise have nowhere to go. It has been great for us as a family to put others needs before our own. As we have said to our children, being homeless somewhat trumps any inconvenience we experience. We have enjoyed getting to know those who have stayed with us hearing of their journey in life and understanding a little of their culture. The thought that has occurred to us is: what sort of reception would we hope for if the roles were reversed and we were in a foreign country, with a strange language and different customs?

Katie and James

Reflections from a Guest

Thank you for your help and support for so many things. I can't explain everything but for room, laundry, food and for all of your house facilities. I will never forget your kindness. These months have been like living in my own family house. Thanks HOST Nottingham.

Parveen

(Name changed to protect identity)

Reflections from a Partner

I work in the Nottingham & Nottinghamshire Refugee Forum as a resettlement caseworker. I help newly recognised refugees access mainstream services and housing.

For newly recognised refugees receiving a positive decision on their asylum claim is a moment of relief and joy. However it is quickly followed by panic and distress due to the 28 day 'move on period.' After 28 days of being granted asylum, their asylum support comes to an end, they are evicted from their NASS accommodation and stop receiving weekly payments of £37.75. Within a month, refugees are expected to secure new accommodation, find a job or apply for mainstream benefits. This is extremely difficult and most people plunge into a period of homelessness and destitution at the end of the 28 days.

It is at this point that Host Nottingham plays a crucial part in the life of newly recognised refugees. Many of my clients have been housed by Host families who have provided practical as well as emotional support in this very stressful period between the end of asylum support and securing new accommodation.

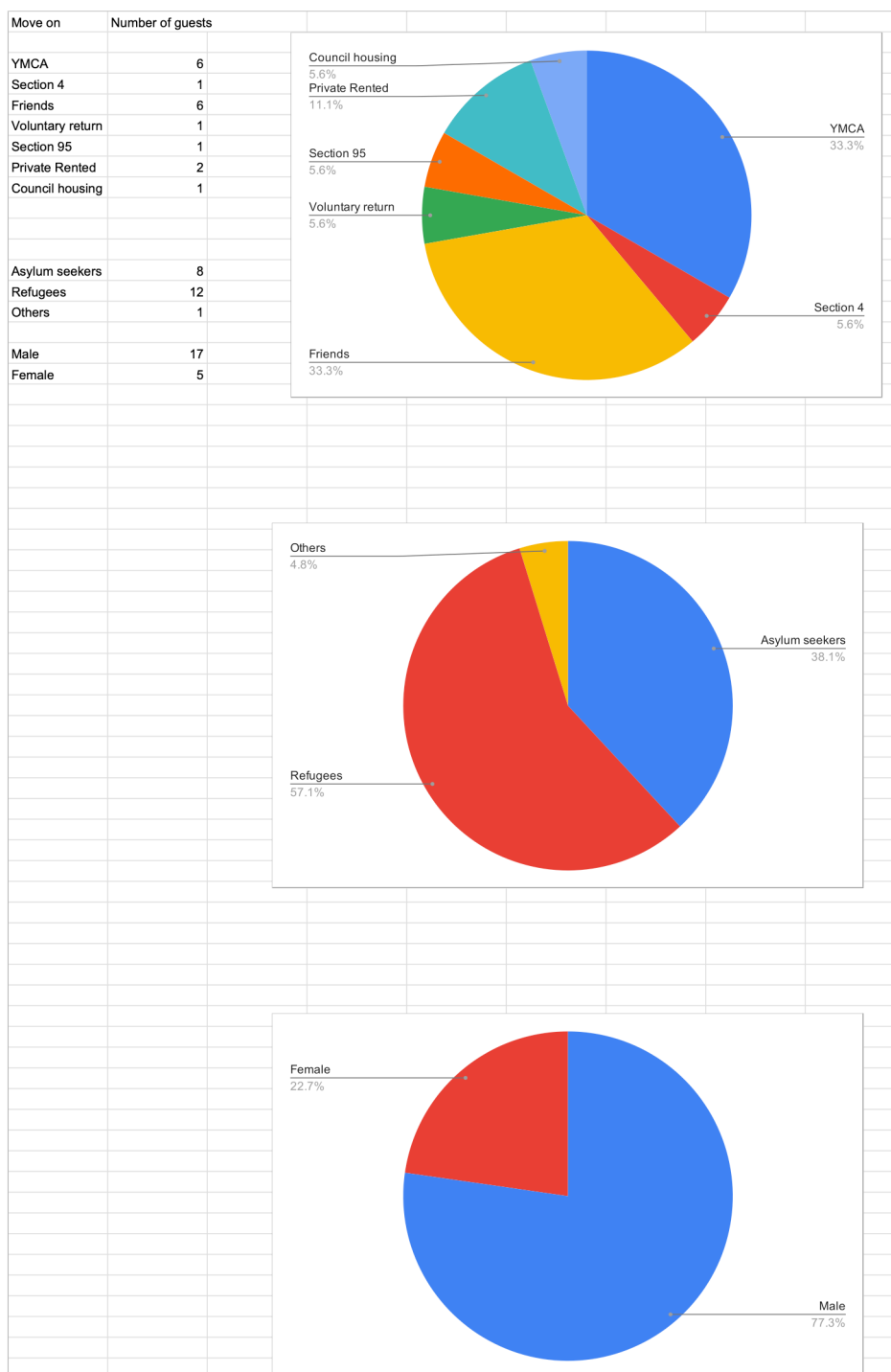
At NNRF we very much appreciate the work of Host Nottingham and value our partnership.

Nicole Shametiova

Caseworker, Specialist Advice Team

Nottingham & Nottinghamshire Refugee Forum

HOST Nottingham Statistics



Treasurer's Report

We started the year with £778 in the bank.

A total of £17,000 of grants were received, comprising £5,000 from Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Refugee Forum's Community of Identity funding; £2,000 from the JN Derbyshire Trust; £4,000 from The Foyle Foundation; £5,000 from the No Accommodation Network (NACCOM); and £1,000 from The Helen Jean Cope Charity.

Our fundraising efforts raised a further £4,115, comprising £1,690 from individual donations; £1,441 from a very successful event at the Crocus Café and a donation from the Nottingham Swing Dance Society; £250 was donated by St Mary's Church specifically for the purchase of warm winter clothing for the Clothes Bank; and a further £724 came in from Gift Aid.

Our total income for the year was £21,115.

A special thank-you goes to all those individuals and organisations that have helped us raise a significant amount of money this year.

Our expenditure for the year was £12,756, with the main items being the Project Coordinator's wages, insurance and travel expenses for our guests. Given that we operate out of an office space provided by NNRF, our office expenditure and overheads are incredibly low and for that we are very grateful. The wage bill was slightly less this year as there was gap between Shingai Mushayabasa, our previous Project Coordinator, leaving and Rebecca Kogan being appointed.

At the end of the financial year our closing balance was £9,279, with a further £36 in petty cash.

The organisation is currently in a very healthy financial position as we move into the next financial year. The additional funds raised will allow us to start tackling the identified development areas mentioned in the Chair's report.

Stuart Brown

Note:

A number of the fundraising events and donations that were mentioned in the Chair's Report i.e. the Moroccan Evening, the Sponsored Swim and the Wedding Gift took place outside the financial reporting parameters of this year's annual report and will be included in our 2019/20 annual report.

Trustees report for the year ending 31 March 2019

The trustees during the financial year and up to and including the date the report was approved were:

Name	Position	Dates
Jane Henson	Chair	
Stuart Brown	Treasurer	Reappointed 6 Dec 18
Rita Cannon	Trustee	
Roger Van Schaick	Trustee	
Jennifer Fleming	Trustee	Appointed 6 Dec 18
Lee Harrison	Secretary	Appointed 6 Dec 18
Maralyn Bird	Trustee	Appointed 6 Dec 18
Gemma Pillay	Trustee	Appointed 6 Dec 18

Charity number

The charity was registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales, number 1158704, on the 29 September 2014.

Registered and principal address

The Sycamore Centre
33A Hungerhill Road
Nottingham
NG3 4NB

Bankers

The Cooperative Bank
P O Box 250
Delf House
Southway
Skelmersdale
WN8 6WT

Independent examiner

Estelle Fisher
35 Mere Road
Erdington
Birmingham
B23 7LH

Structure, governance and management

The charity is governed by a constitution adopted on the 29 September 2014

Method of recruitment and appointment of trustees

The trustees of the charity are appointed by the members at the AGM.

Trustees report (continued) for the year ending 31 March 2019

Objectives and activities

The charity's objectives

1. The relief of need for refugees and asylum seekers living in the city of Nottingham, county of Nottinghamshire and surrounding areas.
2. The advancement of the education of the public in general about the issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum through campaigning and other appropriate means.

The charity's main activities

- a) the provision of a referral into accommodation services for destitute asylum seekers,
- b) assistance in accessing legal advice/support,
- c) the provision of volunteer mentor and befrienders,
- d) developing and providing meaningful activities to improve the lives of clients
- e) such other means as the trustees identify

Public benefit statement

In setting our objectives and planning our activities our Trustees have given serious consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular the prevention and relief of need.

Achievements and performance

Please see annual report pages 3 - 10

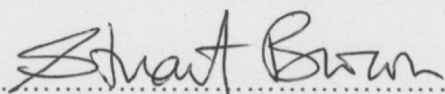
Financial review

The net payments for the year were £12,756, including net receipts of £21,115. There were no restricted funds.

Reserves policy

Three years ago we adopted a 'reserves policy' which sought to ensure sufficient reserves are maintained to cover the winding up costs should it be desirable or necessary to cease activity. These will be sufficient to cover staff redundancies, rent and utility costs and any professional fees likely to be incurred. The reserves target has been met for this financial year.

Signed on behalf of the board of trustees:

Signed: 

Date: 21 November 2019

Name: Stuart Brown

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of:**HOST Nottingham Registered Charity number 1158704****The Sycamore Centre, 33A Hungerhill Road, St Anns, Nottingham NG3 4BN**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of HOST Nottingham for the year ended 31 March 2019.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible but not required, to be subject to an independent examination, it is my responsibility to examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that **no** material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: Estelle Fisher**Name: Estelle Fisher, Postgraduate Diploma in Audit Management and Consultancy, Institute of Internal Auditors, Advanced Diploma.****Address: 35, Mere Road, Erdington, Birmingham B23 7LH**

HOST Nottingham						
Receipts and Payments Accounts for the year ending						
March 31 2019						
			2018/19		2017/18	
Receipts		£	£	£	£	
	Donations		4,115	2,365		
	Ind. donations	1,690				
	Fundraising events	1,441				
	St Mary's Church	250				
	Gift Aid	734				
	Grants		17,000	5,000		
	NNRF COI	5,000				
	J N Derbyshire Trust	2,000				
	Foyle Foundation	4,000				
	NACCOM	5,000				
	HJC Charity	1,000				
Total receipts			21,115		7,365	
Payments						
	Wages	8,978		9,465		
	Clothes Bank	352		154		
	Insurance	1,451		-		
	Payroll costs & Independent Examir	292		392		
	Travel (Staff)	166		191		
	Travel (Guests)	912		1,414		
	Publicity / Website	32		-		
	Office Expenses	275		156		
	Volunteer expenses	72		150		
	Misc expenses	225		194		
Total payments			12,756		12,116	
Surplus			8,359		(4,751)	
Statement of Assets and Liabilities			2018/19		2017/18	
	Cash in bank		9,279		778	
	Cash in hand		36		178	
	less Liabilities due in year				-	
	Total		9,315		956	
	Represented by bank balance b/f		778		5,600	
	Cash in hand b/f		178		107	
	Surplus income over expenditure		8,359		(4,751)	
			9,315		956	

Notes to the HOST Nottingham accounts for the year ended 2018/19

1 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

The trustees have taken advantage of section 133 of the Charities Act 2011 and have prepared the accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

There has been no change to the accounting policies since last year.

No changes have been made to the accounts for previous years.

Taxation

As a registered charity the organisation benefits from rates relief and is generally exempt from income tax and capital gains tax but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

2 Reserves

The trustees seek to maintain a minimum of £1000 in reserves in accordance with the current reserves policy. The reserves target has been met for 2018/19.