

# MERSEYSIDE REFUGEE SUPPORT NETWORK

## ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS TO 31ST MARCH 2019

St Anne's Centre

7 Overbury Street

Liverpool

L7 3HJ

0151-709-7557

[lasar\\_mrsn@yahoo.com](mailto:lasar_mrsn@yahoo.com)

Registered Charity No 1093033

**Merseyside Refugee  
Support Network**

Registered Charity No 1093033



*CITY OF SANCTUARY*

**lasar**

Liverpool Asylum Seeker  
& Refugee Development  
Partnership

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## GOVERNANCE

The following have served the Network as Trustees during the year:

- Carmel Dersch (Independent)
- Harriet Gray (Independent/University of Liverpool/STAR)
- Lynn Learman (Independent/PSS) - *Treasurer*
- Jan Luff (Independent/ESB) - *Chair*
- Nick McLaughlin – South Liverpool CAB
- Ewan Roberts (Asylum Link Merseyside)
- Mohammed Taher (Independent/Merseycare)

### THE TEAM - SESSIONAL & SUPPORT COLLEAGUES AND VOLUNTEERS;

- S. Roberts – MRSN Operations/Projects Manager
- M. McAdam – MRSN Refugee Advocacy Officer
- A. Ahmed – MRSN Refugee Advocacy Officer
- M. Maloney – MNfC/MRSN (Payroll/Project support)
- D. Larkin – (Cable Language), MRSN Volunteer and Associate
- D. Ayden – Volunteer
- M. Watts – Student social worker/volunteer
- E. Adeduwon – Student social worker/volunteer

## MEMBERSHIP POLICY

The Network seeks to establish, through its Membership Policy, two principles. The first is that the Network has to remain firmly in the ownership of voluntary organisations. The second is that we have benefited enormously and intend to continue doing so from the involvement of public and private sector partners.

Membership of the Network represents your good will and intention to support the work of the charity and its members through the principles of partnership working and information sharing.

Full membership is open to any interested organisation or individual which makes an application to the Network and whose application is accepted.

Only full members are able to vote at meetings and to nominate a person to stand for election as a Trustee.

## TRUSTEES' REPORT APRIL 2018/MARCH 2019

Each year, our annual report presents an important opportunity to reflect on the past (financial) year and as a means to assess how the charity has continued to work to meet its core charitable aims and objectives, as required by the Charity Commission. It has been another very busy year and we have enjoyed the benefits of funding for new and additional support projects.

The overall aim of Merseyside Refugee Support Network (MRSN) includes the relief of refugees or asylum seekers in Merseyside and, as a Network, we also work to bring together local and regional organisations concerned with their welfare, to share information and good practice, discuss and address issues across the sector.

In meeting our aims, we provide a combination of networking and information sharing services, supported through an email newsgroup, directory of refugee and asylum support agencies and regular Network meetings. Over the past 13 years, we have also offered "relief" through casework support with refugee clients moving-on from the asylum support system. The biggest need is met through our advocacy casework to help clients access and cope with the mainstream benefits and housing systems, as well as other integration matters such as accessing employment, education, language support and health services

The shared asylum/refugee "sanctuary hub" here at St Anne's continues to enable MRSN to work in close partnership and provide reciprocal asylum and refugee client support and signposting in a very effective way between colleagues from Asylum Link Merseyside (ALM) and Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit (GMIAU).

As ever, we continue to maintain and develop our close working relationships with Network Members to collectively help and support our vulnerable refugee and asylum-seeking clients.

We are delighted in this context to present our 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Report.

As Trustees, we have continued our working partnership with Merseyside Network for Change (MNfC) with whom we share office accommodation and sharing of administrative functions for payroll and personnel management, although we remain wholly independent charities.

As per previous reports, the numbers of people fleeing war and persecution and seeking sanctuary across UK and Europe has not abated and our service is constantly trying to keep resources in place to help new refugees when they are granted leave to remain.

For those refugees and others with leave to remain coming through the asylum process in Merseyside, we continue to work closely with partners across the Network to meet their many and varied needs for moving on into mainstream society.

On an annual basis MRSN is working with between 350-500 individual refugees and their families. Our advocacy, wellbeing and integration support casework is not limited in time or scope, and our work has been extended and enhanced through various grants which have spanned accounting years – Liverpool City Council; John Moores Foundation; European Union ERASMUS + (x2) and LCVS United Way. During the year we also supported research in to the use of NHS emergency services in conjunction with Faiths 4 Change and ALM and Liverpool CCG.

We continue to work hard as an organisation and Network - to highlight the ongoing need to change hearts and minds and address media myth and hype, hence we have continued to reprint our Fact Not Fiction publication as well as taking more and more enquiries and pledges for the City of Sanctuary group and working to support the Schools of Sanctuary in Liverpool.

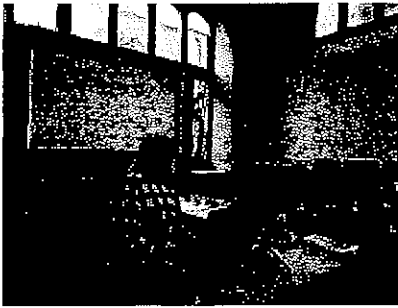
Throughout 2018/2019 Merseyside Refugee Support Network has continued to offer a wide variety of support, networking and information sharing services for our refugee and asylum seeking clients, Diaspora communities and, the organisations who we work with to support them.

The work would not be possible without grants from our funders or the support from our sessional and support colleagues, volunteers, project associates and student social workers who have supported our casework team in continuing to advocate for local refugees and asylum seekers.

Our advocacy and integration work is wholly client led and it is our 1-2-1 support that enables us to meet the needs of our clients through this empowering, resilience building and empathic model. We have continued to provide customised employment, training, housing, welfare benefits and health based integration support to clients. By far the biggest element of our work is helping folk through move-on when they gain refugee status and advocating on their behalf when “the system” fails them and puts refugees at risk of homelessness or financial hardship.

Widening our reach and maintaining partnership arrangements is crucial in the support work we offer including our Refugee and Asylum Awareness Training; mutual work and support with local MPs; ongoing partnership working with colleagues in Liverpool City Council and in supporting the work on the Our Liverpool Refugee Strategy; Merseyside District DWP and across the key Network partners.

Our ongoing work on a transnational basis has been as rewarding as ever. Our Erasmus+ healthy eating and community cohesion/integration (“Healthnic”) project continues in its success and development working with a combination of new and old EU partners. Our newest Erasmus+ project Learn Together - Create Opportunities also started up with a project development meeting in Poland.



MRSN joined in with ALM for the annual Refugee Week BBQ at St Anne's with over 200+ attending from all across the community, enjoying music, dancing, the now infamous and "never-ending" raffle and lovely food as always! It was a great week/month along with all the other fabulous events organised by other Network members and a whole range of activities and events.

The trustees and partners meet quarterly to oversee the governance and administration of the Network and to discuss and respond to matters of urgent concern that are directly affecting refugees and asylum seekers, which are then shared and developed through quarterly Network meetings.

All of our work fulfils our charitable objectives and once again we are so grateful to our grant funders who trust in our work. The summary receipt and payment accounts are attached overleaf and are reconciled to the bank account.

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## RESERVES POLICY STATEMENT






Reserves are unrestricted funds that are freely available to spend in relation to the charity's purposes. At MRSN there is only limited opportunity to build up reserves through donations, training events and other income received which is not restricted. For transparency, the source of the reserves is shown in the accounts.

The receipts and payment accounts which are prepared for the annual return to the Charity Commission show all income received and whether this is restricted per funder or unrestricted donations/income. Unrestricted reserves may contribute to the future sustainability of the charity, but will not be built up to excessive levels. This will be reviewed and developed on an annual basis.




# ACCOUNTS SUMMARY REPORT APRIL 2018/MARCH 2019



## Unity Bank Account Summary

MERSEYSIDE REFUGEE SUPPORT NETWORK Receipts and Payments Accounts 2018-2019 Year ending 31st March 2019			Merseyside Refugee Support Network Registered Charity No 1093033			
#	Project	Income/Funder/Donor	£ B/F	£ Income	£ Exp	£ Balance
<b>Unrestricted Funds/Donations</b>						
1	General Funds / Volunteer & Client Support	MISC	7,869.27	8,500.14	14,157.43	2,211.98
2	Other Training /Support work	to general funds	2,367.96	0.00	2,367.96	0.00
3	Refugee Week / City of Sanctuary activities	to general funds	1,320.63	0.00	1,320.63	0.00
		<i>Sub Total:</i>	<i>11,557.86</i>	<i>8,500.14</i>	<i>17,846.02</i>	<i>2,211.98</i>
<b>Restricted Funds/Grants</b>						
5	LCC Community Resources Grant	LCC	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00
7	New Beginnings Fund (CFM)	New Beginnings - complete	207.00	0.00	207.00	0.00
9	City of Sanctuary Grant (The Guardian)	CoS Central	895.59	0.00	770.00	125.59
10	LCVS/MRSN/ALM partnership project	LCVS/United Way	5,500.00	0.00	5,500.00	0.00
11	#Liverpool Welcomes - FUND ADMINISTRATION	MISC	549.19	0.00	0.00	549.19
12	CCG LASAR PROJECT	CCG/NHS - complete	8,761.80	0.00	8,761.80	0.00
13	Erasmus HEALTHNIC	ERASMUS + (Syros)	-582.08	18,465.80	17,829.83	53.89
		<i>Sub Total:</i>	<i>15,331.50</i>	<i>28,465.80</i>	<i>43,068.63</i>	<i>728.67</i>
<b>Balances Per Bank Statement: To 31.3.19</b>			<b>£</b>	<b>26,889.36</b>	<b>36,965.94</b>	<b>60,914.65</b>
<p>During the period, MNFC kindly administered payment of salary and some overhead costs (<i>pro bono</i>) for which they are fully reimbursed by our various grant-funded projects, as itemised in the detailed receipts and payments accounts. These figures do not include debtors and creditors.</p> <p>I have examined these accounts and they are consistent with the books and records kept by Merseyside Refugee Support Network</p> <p>Signed: </p> <p>Date: 27/01/2020</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">               City of Sanctuary         </div> <div style="text-align: center;">               LCVS IS THE  <b>United Way</b>              IN LIVERPOOL         </div> <div style="text-align: center;">               Liverpool City Council         </div> </div> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 20px;">  <b>Erasmus+</b> </div>						

## HSBC Account Summary

MERSEYSIDE REFUGEE SUPPORT NETWORK Receipts and Payments Accounts 2018-19 Year ending 31st March 2019		HSBC ACCOUNT				
#	Project	Income/Funder/Donor	£ B/F	£ Income	£ Exp	£ Balance
<b>Unrestricted Funds/Donations</b>						
1	General Funds / Volunteer & Client Support	MISC	0.00	8,120.00	1,285.53	6,834.47
		Sub Total:	0.00	8,120.00	1,285.53	6,834.47
<b>Restricted Funds/Grants</b>						
6	JOHN MOORES FOUNDATION	JMF	0.00	9,856.00	2,000.00	7,856.00
8	NEW ERASMUS - CREATE OPPORTUNITIES - payment delayed	ERASMUS + (Blalystok)	0.00	0.00	603.25	-603.25
13	Erasmus_HEALTHNIC	ERASMUS + (Syros)	0.00	11,221.87	7,573.74	3,648.13
		Sub Total:	0.00	21,077.87	10,176.99	10,900.88
<b>Balances Per Bank Statement: To 31.3.19</b>			£	0.00	29,197.87	11,462.52
<p>During the period, MNFC kindly administered payment of salary and some overhead costs (<i>pro bono</i>) for which they are fully reimbursed by our various grant-funded projects, as itemised in the detailed receipts and payments accounts. These figures do not include debtors and creditors.</p> <p>I have examined these accounts and they are consistent with the books and records kept by Merseyside Refugee Support Network</p> <p>Signed: <u><i>[Signature]</i></u></p> <p>Date: <u>27/01/2020</u></p>						

  
City of Sanctuary

These accounts have been approved by the MRSN Board of Trustees on:

27 January 2020