



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021

Charity name: Sevenoaks Welcomes Refugees

Charity registration number: 1184120

1. Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	The objects of the CIO are: 1. The relief of financial hardship amongst those granted and seeking refugee status and their dependents living (temporarily or permanently) in Sevenoaks and the surrounding area; 2. To advance the education and training of those granted and seeking refugee status and their dependents in need thereof so as to advance them in life and assist them to adapt within a new community; 3. To advance the education of the public in general, including landlords and local authorities, on the issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum; 4. The provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life of those persons who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances; and 5. To develop the capacity and skills of the members of the socially and economically disadvantaged refugee community of Sevenoaks in such a way that they are better able to identify, and help meet, their needs and to participate more fully in society.

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	We are focused on four tasks: 1. Providing local practical support to refugee families in our area (e.g. welcoming, help with learning English, finding jobs, providing lifts, sourcing necessary household items, making small grants); 2. Building public understanding of and support for the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (SVPRS) and the Government's successor Resettlement Scheme; 3. Finding private landlords willing to take part in the government-funded rent payment scheme; and 4. Seeking to influence SDC & KCC policy in order to maximise support for refugee families in our area.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	All Trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

2. Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	

Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	1. Through our network we were able to identify a further two new landlords willing to rent out their properties under the Resettlement Scheme. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, refugee families were unable to be brought to the UK. However, since the end of the financial year both properties have again been made available for use under the Scheme. 2. We have helped to increase the number of employed family members from two to five within four families, assisted by an increase in opportunities in the hospitality sector which has benefited family members who were previously struggling to find openings. 3. Raised £12,257 funds (-45% versus year before, reflecting the impact of the pandemic). £14,205 (+26% versus year before) was spent on making grants to the families. 4. We purchased an online Learning Platform along with the relevant IT and robust broadband to support this remote learning. This enabled our families to access their learning 24/7, under the guidance of our language team. 5. Our team of twenty language volunteers has delivered an average of twenty five hours per week, initially by Zoom and since the easing of restrictions by a blended approach in which each student receives at least one face to face lesson per week, supplemented with additional zoom lessons and backed up with assignments set on Flash Academy. We have also arranged for some supplementary lessons planned and conducted by Sevenoaks School. 6. Our dedicated 'family teams' of volunteers continued to support the families in person when possible and remotely when necessary. 7. We continued to build our supporter network to over 400 supporters, including 56 who had completed DBS
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		requirements by the year end and were able to work directly with the families.
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	On 10th March 2017 the group set a target of helping to get 5 refugee families housed in the SDC area within 3 years, i.e. by March 2020. The fifth and sixth families were not able to arrive during the year due to the pandemic.
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	For 2020/21 the fundraising target was £15,000. £12,257 was raised, reflecting the negative impact of the pandemic on our activities. Fundraising highlights: Our annual Concert raised £3,933; the Syrian recipe cookbook produced by a team from Sevenoaks School working together with refugees and volunteers raised a further £468. Other funds came from a number of fundraising events (£2,226), and donations (£6,086). The Trustees are very appreciative of all donations – of time and donated items, as well as money – and work to ensure that the money is put to good use in support of refugees as they resettle and build new lives in our area.
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	The charity made no investment in this year.
Other		

3. Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	Income totalled £12,257 for the year and expenditure was £15,921 producing a deficit of £3,665. Funds brought forward were £16,718 so total funds are £13,053. Of this total £3,837 is a restricted fund for the purpose of supporting the cost of additional housing. All funds are held in cash at bank.
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Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	The charity has no employees and all its funds are utilised within the terms of the constitution of the charity. There are restricted funds for property procurement otherwise the funds held are free. There is an understanding that the landlords, subject to the availability of funds, may seek reimbursement of expenses of up to £1,500pa. The free funds for general use as a reserve should be £2,000. The funds available for general use should be the balance of the bank account, less the restricted funds, less £1,500 for landlords with a lower limit of £2,000.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	See above
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	Not applicable
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	Not applicable
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	The trustees are confident that the charity is a going concern.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	Fundraising from local supporters and businesses.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	The charity currently has no investment policy or social investment policy.

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A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	A safeguarding incident affecting the welfare of refugees or volunteers or partner organisations, and damaging the reputation of the charity. Entering financial commitments beyond the charity's ability to raise funds sustainably.
Other		

4. Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		Not applicable
Type of governing document	Para 1.25	Constitution.
How is the charity constituted?	Para 1.25	CIO
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more	Para 1.25	When a trustee appointment is to be made, a notice is issued to volunteers and supporters inviting applications with a short personal profile. Candidates appear before a full group meeting of volunteers, with their name and profile circulated in advance and are elected by a show of hands.

trustees		
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	Newly appointed trustees attend a briefing from the chair, the secretary and the finance lead as soon as possible after their appointment. They are provided with the Charity Commission guidance for Trustees.
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	Ten trustees. Two main activity teams: a) dedicated 'family teams' providing befriending and general support to the families: b) language support programme

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Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	We partner with Sevenoaks District Council and Kent County Council.
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5. Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Sevenoaks Welcomes Refugees
Other name the charity uses	Not applicable
Registered charity number	1184120
Charity's principal address	Sevenoaks Welcomes Refugees c/o Vine Evangelical Church Hitchen Hatch Lane Sevenoaks TN13 3AT

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
Simon Evans	Co-chair	23rd September 2020 to 31st March 2021	SWR full group meeting
Chris Hix	Finance lead		SWR full group meeting
Judith Thompson	Co-chair	23rd September 2020 to 31st March 2021	SWR full group meeting
Guy Knight			SWR full group meeting
Humphrey Pring			SWR full group meeting
Heather Styles	Secretary		SWR full group meeting
Doug Elish			SWR full group meeting
David Hinks			SWR full group meeting

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Jeanette Nunn			SWR full group meeting
Bob Sinclair			SWR full group meeting

6. Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s) Full name(s) Position (eg
Secretary, Chair, etc) Date





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SIMON EVANS,
CHAIR. 21 JANUARY
2022

