



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1st January 2019 to 31st December 2019

Charity name: Louth Churches for Refugees

Charity registration number: 1177536

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 to relieve financial hardship for: a) those seeking refuge from conflict in the Middle East, North Africa region; b) those granted refugee status and their dependents living in Lincolnshire and Louth in particular; and c) refugee children by the provision of holidays.
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	The charity's main activities during the year have included preparations towards participation in the Home Office co-ordinated settlement of refugees. With this focus, there has been less work in other areas, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• collections of practical items for use by refugees;• events and activities to raise awareness of the situation facing refugees; and
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	In all of the charity's work, the trustees have been mindful of the need to fulfil the charity's charitable purposes and to work for the public benefit. They believe that this has been the case, and that the activities represented by the summary above and in the report that follows demonstrate both the ways in which Louth Churches for Refugees has fulfilled its purposes of relieving financial hardship of those groups specified in its governing document and that this has been undertaken in a way that is demonstrably for the public benefit.

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
<p>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.</p>	<p>Para 1.20</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">LOUTH CHURCHES' FOR REFUGEES - VICE CHAIRS REPORT 2019/2020</p> <p>During 2019/2020 we have held fast to our core objectives – namely, to Pray, to Act, and to Give. Regular prayer both for the well-being of those displaced by war, conflict and persecution, as well as for the success of our work, has been a feature of all our meetings. We remain a 'faith based' organisation although we welcome members from all parts of our local community. In terms of 'Acting', our organisation finally achieved one of the charity's goals; we received a Syrian family into our community in Louth.</p> <p>Most of 2019 was taken up with the preparations to get the family to Louth. Meetings were held with the Home office, ELDC and LCC. One of the biggest issues we had was to find a house that would be rented to the family for a minimum of two years at an affordable rent. The East Lincolnshire Methodist Circuit offered a very good 4 bedroom house in a pleasant area of Louth.</p> <p>Once the house was found then time was spent making it ready. Donations of furniture and contents were quite overwhelming and we managed to fully furnish the house, only having to dip into our reserves for a washing machine, bedding, and a few odds and ends. The response from people in the local area has been heart warming and we could not have achieved what we have without the kind donations of goods and cash.</p> <p>The family arrived at the end of January, leaving them with very little time to settle in before Corona virus hit the U.K. Schools were found for the children and doctors for the family. Bank accounts were opened and interviews took place with the DWP. One of our biggest concerns was finding interpreters. A Syrian man from Grimsby came forward to offer help before the family arrived. This still left us needing a female interpreter. A couple of days before the family arrived, a lady who spoke Arabic, said she would come to the airport with us. Both of these people have been invaluable and we owe them a great deal of thanks for the work they have done.</p> <p>I think the whole country has been on hold since Covid 19, and the lockdown has made life difficult for our family and for the people supporting them. LCfR have had to rethink, like everyone else, how to support the family yet keep social distance. Zoom has been a very good tool; the education of the children and the ESOL help for all the family has been done by a dedicated team using Zoom. More immediate needs have been dealt with by visits to the house and conversations on the doorstep. As we come out of lockdown some of the group are starting to do house visits and I feel that the family are settling into life in Louth. We all have a</p>

		<p>long journey ahead of us but I'm sure with God's help we will succeed in helping this family become part of the community.</p> <p>LCfR still have a lot of work to do. The refugee situation is not getting better therefore LCFR ask you to continue to 'Pray. Act and Give', so if you can help in any way in the next year please join us.</p>
--	--	--

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	In the year, the charity continued to raise funds towards its stated objectives, The total rose by £5k.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	The charity does not hold significant reserves, with all monies held being required for its immediate charitable work. This is reviewed periodically by the trustees.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	None.
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	There is no concern about whether the charity is a going concern.
The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	The main source of funding is from supporters of the charity, who commit to regular payments. Alongside those appeals that have resulted in immediate expenditure, the charity has accumulated funds to the level required to participate in the Home Office administered Resettlement Programme. As the charity has to demonstrate that this money is available, it is held within the main bank account where it is immediately available should it be called upon.

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
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 trustees	Para 1.25	Election by members (2 or 3 trustees) Nomination by Louth & District Churches Together (3 to 5 trustees)

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Louth Churches for Refugees
Other name the charity uses	None
Registered charity number	1177536
Charity's principal address	Trinity Centre Eastgate Louth LN11 8DJ

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)
1	Elaine Chafour			Churches Together in Louth and District
2	Derek Gibson	Deputy chairman		Churches Together in Louth and District
3	Jane Fletcher			Churches Together in Louth and District
4	David Newlove		To 28 th March 2019	Churches Together in Louth and District
5	John Troughton	Chairman		Churches Together in Louth and District
6	David Fidler		From 28 th March 2019	Elected by members

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

None.

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		