



Refugee Support
Devon

ANNUAL REVIEW

2022-

2023

I appreciate all the help and support I get from RSD, especially Denise, how she was in touch with Brana [a volunteer] step-by-step to give me the best support that they can offer to me.

Mohammad, RSD client

I'm not scared anymore. I feel hopeful. I actually see hope in other (hotel) residents' faces now that RSD is supporting us.

Khadidja, RSD client

It is disheartening to think that the dreams of many who wish to succeed in this highly esteemed professional exam [OET] were crushed possibly due to their incomplete comprehension of English. These individuals could have realised their aspirations if only they had been equipped with a support system. Recently, I had the pleasure of witnessing such a support system in action, in Devon, and it was an exhilarating experience.

The professional exam process in itself is a daunting task, and being unable to comprehend English text only makes it more unbearable, especially when you possess the desire to make a meaningful contribution to society. I commend the work of RSD, in giving people an opportunity to achieve their dreams.

Victor, RSD client

They [the RSD team] are all kind people. They all try their best to support and encourage refugees to start again. Thanks for all your support, RSD!

RSD client

Jury is a warm, kind, respectful, generous and impartial person who has provided us with support in areas such as helping with the admission of our son to school, English courses for adults, donations of clothing, personal hygiene items, bus tickets, organising activities within the hotel such as yoga, dance, acupuncture and other recreational activities. Through Jury's work we have felt heard, welcomed and understood. She clears up our doubts and concerns, and searches for alternative solutions for each family.

We wish that RSD continues to have success in your daily work of supporting people like us, and that you receive wisdom and blessings from God for this great humanitarian work.

Family staying at initial accommodation hotel in Devon

RSD staff treat us with good manners and patience and help us with everything we need and what is difficult for us, especially Dr Souad, who always helps us and responds to our calls and needs. RSD has helped us with settling in the UK, understanding the system and connecting us with other service providers, which has made our lives much easier and more efficient.

RSD Resettlement client

Letter from the Chair

The year has seen significant development at Refugee Support Devon (RSD), especially in response to the arrival of many new asylum seekers in Devon, trebling the number of individuals receiving direct or indirect support from our services.

Last year I reported on our response to a group of asylum seekers who were placed in a Tiverton hotel. This involved a new approach to outreach work and developing partnerships with other Devon organisations, which we've had to expand rapidly this year in response to other initial accommodation hotels opening in North Devon, Torbay and Exeter and the sudden, often unannounced, arrival of around 800 asylum seekers. With funding from Devon County Council, East Devon District Council and Exeter City Council, we were eventually able to engage Jury Arevalo, our new outreach co-ordinator, to support and ensure the wellbeing of the new arrivals.

Demands on RSD's drop-in services increased, not only on account of the new arrivals, but also as co-ordinator Neli Montes de Oca continued to develop RSD's immigration advice service. Valentina Todino was appointed on a part-time basis in December to assist her.

While we received only one new family through the UK Resettlement Scheme, co-ordinator Souad Fadel took on an additional role working with Afghan refugee families in an Exeter bridging hotel.

Our Education and Employability project has also expanded to meet growing demands. Jen Schoen was appointed on a part-time basis in spring 2022 to assist co-ordinator Denise Parker in managing RSD's English Language provision. Denise was able to focus on further developing the Refugees as Medical Professionals (RAMP) and employability projects. Jen's work has also grown considerably

in response to the needs of asylum seekers in the initial accommodation hotels, many of whom have enthusiastically participated in English classes and joined in outdoor activities.

Little of this work would have been possible without the tremendous response from RSD's many volunteers, who have risen to the occasion, volunteering in our offices or in the hotels, accompanying clients to official appointments, teaching English, organising events and generally using their professional knowledge and skills to enable clients to re-orientate themselves to living and working in Devon. Our special thanks go to them.

RSD's trustees have also been very active in monitoring and supporting our services old and new. While Shuroouk Al-Sabbagh and Treasurer, Chris Hill stepped down from the board in October, having given much valued service to RSD, we have been pleased to welcome Edith Fassnidge, Kev Hunter and Shehany Warnakulasuriya as new trustees. Michelle Lambourne, our trusted financial accounts monitor, has kept us up to date with budget reports. We are extremely sad that Kev died suddenly but peacefully in May 2023. He was an inspiration to us all and we'll miss him terribly. Please see page 15 on Kev's enduring work for those who've had the hardest journey.

The fast-moving events are likely to continue for the foreseeable future. Raising new funds to meet the unprecedented demands on our services will become even more crucial for us in the coming year.

Jenny Longford, RSD Chair, Board of Trustees



Drop-In Service

Our drop-in service is a lifeline to people who often have nowhere else to turn, and we were delighted to restore our normal services after about 18 months of seeing people on an appointment-only basis.

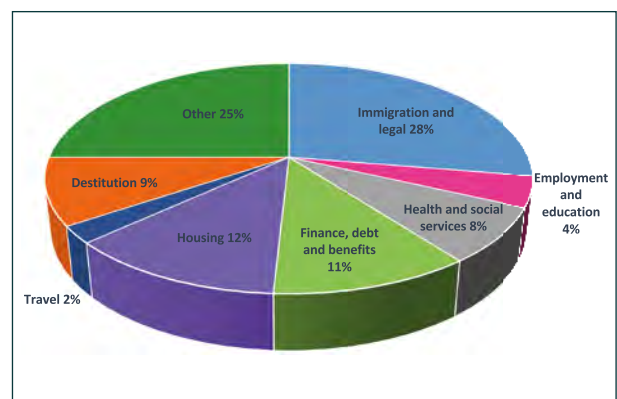
In July, the team welcomed Valentina, our new triage and drop-in co-ordinator. She works closely with our indispensable team of drop-in volunteers, a few of whom have been with us for over a decade, and who bring their skills and considerable experience to this core service.

Demand skyrocketed, with Neli, Valentina and their volunteers responding to 1036 visits/enquiries in total, an increase of 118% from the previous year. Of the 156 clients the team supported, 57 were asylum-seekers and 69 were refugees. There were five UK citizens and the rest had complicated immigration status. See adjacent chart for the reasons people asked for our assistance.

We moved into a bigger room in Exeter Community Centre, to better manage the increasing numbers of clients accessing our services. There's now enough space for a welcome and waiting area, and desks can

be shielded from one another, allowing for more confidentiality. We also have a smaller consulting room for more private appointments.

Drop-In Services used April 2022 - March 2023



Destitution Project

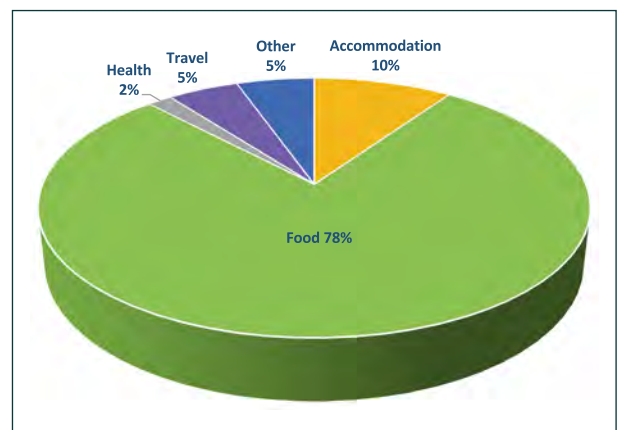
Our destitution project supports asylum seekers and refugees who are in severe financial hardship for a variety of reasons, including not being entitled to government support, delays in payments of benefits, or during times of personal crisis.

The small amounts of money we give helps to tide them over tricky times, particularly as the cost-of-living crisis has added to their challenges.

We supported 27 individuals (6 women, 21 men) through our emergency fund. They made 113 claims between them and we gave just over £5300. This represents a jump of nearly 44% on last year. The adjacent chart gives a breakdown of how the money was split.

All funds for this project come from our fantastic supporters who either make regular or one-off donations to us, as well as those who do fundraising activities on our behalf. We're grateful to each and every one of them.

Emergency Fund 2022-23



Immigration Clinic

Tony, our immigration clinic volunteer, said:



Since its inception in July 2018 the immigration service has taken on well over 170 cases. We supported 70 individuals last year alone with a total of 390 enquiries/visits. We have continued to do OISC level 1 work but have also developed the capacity to do OISC level 2 work.

In 2021 and early 2022, Neli and I were doing level 2 work under the supervision of the extraordinarily generous James Conyers of Refugee Action. In April 2022, we were authorised to continue doing this work without external support which was another step forward for the organisation, if a little daunting.

We have continued to do level 1 and level 2 work since then. Memorable cases have included helping:

- **an Afghan father to bring his 13-year-old son to the UK from a refugee camp in Greece**
- **a Nigerian client who had been here without papers for nearly 10 years to obtain leave to remain – giving her as a consequence the right to work, access to benefits and housing, and to start living here properly after many years of twilight existence**
- **a Zimbabwean family of five who had originally been here without papers to renew their leave to remain and to obtain fee waivers for these applications to avoid fees of £11,000**
- **and advising many Afghans about the very limited choices available to them to help their families still in Afghanistan, often in traumatic circumstances; and exploring ways to get them to safety. Sadly, the answer was often that they couldn't**
- **a client obtain citizenship even though he was too traumatised to take the English language and Life in the UK tests, and would not have been able to attend the citizenship ceremony**

The debate about our immigration and asylum systems has become distorted and confused. There is much misleading information both in the media and on social media platforms. Legal aid provision is now extremely restricted and underfunded. For these reasons, the work we are doing at RSD to support and advise our clients is ever more essential.



Dlivan and Rezan's Story

Dlivan and Rezan and their two young children arrived in a small village on the Devon-Dorset border in January 2021. They were sponsored by a local community group. It wasn't an auspicious start for them as the country had still not recovered from the Covid pandemic, they spoke no English, they had no transport, they felt isolated from other Arabic speakers, and they knew nothing about the culture, let alone about life in a small English village.

The family was eventually moved to Exeter by Devon County Council under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (see the next section). Souad, our resettlement co-ordinator, has worked incredibly hard to help the family settle in their new surroundings. The family is much happier now. They also had their third child last year. Thanks to Souad, the family's now become more self-reliant and can do everyday tasks such as contacting their GP, their children's school, and their utility and other service providers. They only ask for help with more complicated issues.

Above all, they're both learning English and this of course, has opened up new doors for them. They've made friends with their neighbours. They're able to go out and about together as a family and have taken part in various activities organised by RSD. They've also been able to tap into the wider Arabic-speaking network and this has made them feel more connected with others.

Rezan's confidence is growing by the day as he muses, "I feel so much safer in this country. Settling in Exeter has been easy because everyone is very welcoming. Souad and her colleagues have encouraged us to solve our own problems. I am ready to be independent now and would like to set up a business in metalworking, which is what I did in Lebanon before coming here." Dlivan is equally enthusiastic about the opportunities available to her. Her eventual goal? "I'd like to become a hairdresser and a beautician."

“

I feel so much safer in this country.

Settling in Exeter has been easy because everyone is very welcoming.

Rezan

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Resettlement Schemes

It was an eventful year even though around 18 families left the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme. All 18 families now have indefinite leave to remain in the UK; three of the families have British citizenship, and the others are in the process of applying for it.

We remain committed to supporting the 14 families still in the scheme, including a new family which arrived in February – the first new family we’ve had in three years!

All the families are now well integrated in their communities: 20 people have jobs/are volunteering; a handful are in higher education, including Dania who’s been awarded a Masters with Distinction from Exeter University. We’re proud of all of them.

In December, Souad, our resettlement co-ordinator, also took over the support of the Afghan people who are at a ‘bridging hotel’ and who arrived here under the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme in August 2021. Over the last few months, Souad has organised cooking sessions in a hired kitchen, so that the women could cook their own food and all

the families from the hotel would then get together to enjoy and celebrate the food. Southcombe Barn (southcombebarn.com), a gorgeous venue in Dartmoor invited them for Eid celebrations which all the families really enjoyed. The local community has also been extremely generous, donating 10 sewing machines for the women to do embroidery and make cushions and handbags, a few of which they’ve already managed to sell at an event! The men were invited to play sports by Devon Cricket.

Souad surmises, “These (sports) sessions in Exeter are attracting more of our clients which is helping them form new connections with different groups of people. This is really good for their social life and mental health, making them feel more accepted by the community.”

Our grateful thanks go to Ottery Refugee Response Group, West Devon Safe Haven, the Church of Jesus Christ and Latter-Day Saints in Exeter, Exeter Mosque, Devon Cricket, Southcombe Barn and of course the local communities for their wonderful support.



Support for Initial Accommodation Hotels

Over the past year, there has been a huge increase in asylum seekers arriving in Devon as a result of hotels being used as temporary accommodation.

RSD has been at the forefront in co-ordinating and providing support to around 800 individuals staying in emergency hotels in Devon, including one large hotel housing women and children, with several pregnant women in the group. These hotels are often in remote places, with residents having no idea how long they will be there, and with limited access to legal services. Clients are often very confused and disorientated, and in need of immediate support. Here are two perspectives of the initial accommodation (IA) hotel situation...



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Receiving notification from the Home Office of their intent to set up an IA hotel in our area is daunting. Information about who is coming, when, and their needs are sketchy. We know that many people will be in poor condition, tired, unsettled and living with trauma.

As Devon County Council's (DCC's) Migration and Resettlement Lead, I'm seeking a compassionate and creative approach to respond to people's needs. Refugee Support Devon has been a critical partner in this work, helping to create a community within hotel settings.

We were delighted when Jury was appointed to the role of outreach co-ordinator in hotels that we are part-funding with our colleagues at Exeter City and East Devon District Councils. Jury uses her lived experience and her connection with the residents to ensure that the migrant perspective is at the heart of decision-making. Jury is undaunted, adaptable and sensitive, working effectively in a small hotel environment as well as in a large hotel with multiple nationalities.

The work includes navigating complex relationships and Jury has been highly effective at creating collaboration where others would struggle. Her personality and energy are infectious!

Jury has helped people with clothing, taken them to medical appointments, helped with language and wellbeing assessments, helped our education team work with parents on school choices, created a volunteer network within the hotel residents, interpreted and translated, signposted to safeguarding and trauma services, and much more. We have new-born babies and older people in our hotels and Jury supports everyone.

Research by the Refugee Council and others has highlighted the adverse impact of grim living conditions in hotels accommodating sanctuary seekers. As multi-agency partners we try to focus on the things we can change and we lobby on things we cannot. Devon is in a stronger position to do this because of its partnership with RSD and the work of Jury, Rupert and their colleagues. I simply could not do my job without them. Heartfelt thanks.

Angela Welch
Migration and Resettlement Lead, Devon County Council

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Khadija is from Chad, and was studying gynaecology when she had to flee suddenly to Britain.

When she was brought to a hotel in Exeter, she had to Google where she was and how to pronounce the name of the city that has now become her temporary home, as no-one had given her any information. For two weeks Khadija didn't speak to anyone at the hotel. She was terrified there would be other Chadians there watching her, so she stayed in her room and came out for her meals only.

Eventually she was told about Refugee Support Devon (RSD). Khadija met Jury [RSD outreach co-ordinator in hotels] and she immediately felt that she could trust her. Khadija wanted to volunteer and help Jury support other residents. She soon became indispensable both as an RSD volunteer and as a representative of the hotel residents. She found a new purpose. Looking back, she sees life at the hotel as "before and after RSD".



Khadija



English language class at the hotel

Khadija explains, "Before there were many angry residents as no-one told us anything, we didn't have anything, and there was nothing to do at the hotel. We felt isolated, suspicious and worried as the hotel is close to an airport and we were scared about being flown away. Everyone was battling with their own demons. When Jury and her colleagues started supporting us, the atmosphere in the hotel changed and everyone felt they were finally being listened to. RSD organised collections of warm clothes, books, toys, games, stationery, a computer for residents, mobile phones, SIM cards, bus passes, essential toiletries, a few musical instruments and even new underclothes for

each resident. The NHS helped with medical assessments, Devon County Council helped with registering children at local schools and older children at Exeter College. The parents were relieved that their children were at last able to go to school. Most parents attend English language classes at the hotel organised by RSD, and there's even a crèche for them to leave their babies and toddlers while they're either studying or if they simply want a bit of a break. Residents have also started running various classes in our hotel including yoga, fitness, Indian and salsa dancing! There's now a routine to our lives and it feels as if we are one big family.

During Ramadan, RSD and the Exeter Mosque were very helpful in providing us with special food, prayer mats, clothes and gifts for children. We celebrated Eid over two days and even the hotel staff played games with us."

Khadija now has a team of helpers who accompany people to hospital and other appointments, do interpreting in different languages, and a couple of girls who helped with the complex task of buying underclothes for women.

Khadija reflects, "Although we still have many problems, I'm much happier now. I have started taking OET (Occupational English Test) classes with RSD and I'm hoping to continue with my gynaecology studies. Even if I don't manage that at first, I would be willing to do any work with the NHS. I find it difficult to depend on other people and I would like to be independent."

Khadija, a resident at an IA Hotel



RSD is grateful for all the amazing support we've received from Devon County Council, East Devon District Council, Exeter City Council, Devon and Cornwall Refugee Support, Baby Bank Exeter, Exeter College, Hikmat, the Church of Jesus Christ and Latter-Day Saints in Exeter, Mint Methodist Church, Exeter Mosque, Newton Crisis Aid, NHS staff, Ottery Refugee Response Group, Rediscover Church, St Sidwells Community Centre, all the local schools and of course the local communities for their donated items.

ESOL Project

Over the last year we've created a stronger volunteer recruitment and retention system. We have a committed community of volunteers who are assisting with the increasing English language needs of newly-arrived asylum seekers in local hotels.

As the landscape of need changes, our volunteers have adapted and are eager to engage in a more comprehensive approach to teaching and leadership.

We continue to work with Devon County Council to develop ESOL opportunities for the large number of clients in hotels. Our online classes have attracted refugees and asylum seekers from around the county as word spreads that we offer these services - there are few resources and co-ordination outside Exeter. This also helps abate the isolation that many of our clients feel even though they may be in a hotel with others.

The work that we have been able to do with the asylum seekers goes beyond teaching in the classroom and

we hope to use more outdoor opportunities such as our field trip to the Exeter Cathedral, tour of a local museum, Refugee Rocks - rock climbing at the local gym - to engage our clients in opportunities to improve their English.

“ The weekly online book group is the connection I need to help the sadness and helplessness I feel as an asylum seeker in a hotel in another city.
ESOL client on learning of the death of her mother-in-law in her country. ”



Employability and RAMP (Refugees as Medical Professionals) Projects

This year has seen an increase in demand on our services to assist clients as they seek work or training opportunities.

Fortunately, our team has grown and we now have four volunteers who give their time to support clients, do research into opportunities and prepare them for work. One client has found a full-time job valeting cars for a local car dealership. He is now able to support his family as they adjust to their new life in Exeter.

Our RAMP Devon project is also progressing apace. It offers English language support to healthcare professionals wishing to work in the NHS as clients have to pass the Occupational English Test (OET) before they can take their professional exams. We've had several successes already – 2 Afghan vets and 3 BNO (British National Overseas) Hong Kong nurses have already passed their OET exams.

RAMP project in action

Maggie and Steve, both registered nurses, came from Hong Kong to Devon in 2019. They have three children, but were determined to work in their profession in this country. It has been a long and sometimes difficult road for them. The Covid pandemic proved a real challenge with all the relevant exam centres closing down and their children having to be home-schooled.

Once the restrictions were lifted, they both decided to do something about their healthcare jobs in the NHS. They were working well below their professional status as they hadn't passed the relevant English language and clinical exams in this country. Although they embarked on various intensive courses, they didn't have much individual support until they discovered RSD. Two of our RAMP volunteers - specialised in healthcare and nursing training - worked closely with Maggie and Steve individually. They supported them in their coursework and mentored them in the workplace. Happily, both Maggie and Steve have passed all their exams as a result and are practising as registered nurses – precisely what they were aiming for!

This support is much appreciated by our clients trying to resume their careers and utilise their skills and experience in their adopted country. As one client wrote recently:

I would like to thank all the RSD team for the OET preparation course. I really appreciate everything you have done for me. I enjoyed the sessions so much. It was a great experience and pleasure! All of you are incredible people! I felt your support, understanding and encouragement all the time during my preparation.

The volunteers were amazing; they really helped me prepare for my English exams, especially the speaking and listening parts. Charlotte [RSD volunteer] also came to my home to help me with my clinical exams and I am so happy that I have passed all my exams now and am a District Nurse.
Steve



The volunteers who helped me to prepare for my specialised English exams gave up their own time to give me proper support through a combination of face-to-face and online classes. Even when I was the only student in the class, they carried on working with me intensively and I received individualised support from them. It gave me real confidence to take and pass my English exams.
Maggie

Volunteers

A total of 102 people enquired to be volunteers during the course of the year.

We ran 11 volunteer training sessions, and had approximately 82 volunteers supporting us in all aspects of our work including our drop-in service, teaching English classes, organising and advising on fundraising events and applications, managing our allotment, mentoring clients to take exams and find jobs, giving legal support to clients, running events, providing strategic direction and so much more. This year volunteers also readily supported clients who found themselves in IA hotels helping them to meet their everyday needs. We remain hugely grateful to all our wonderful volunteers for giving us their time, high levels of commitment and energy, and the skills and experience they bring to the workplace. RSD would simply not exist without them.



Volunteer Viewpoint



While volunteering with RSD and interacting with new and long-term clients, I have noticed how people often come to us for assistance in one area, such as learning English or getting help with a legal or financial issue, and then go on to receive support from our whole suite of services. For example, while I have been assisting with RSD's Conversation Class and Book Club, we have not only aided clients with their English skills, but also connected them to other RSD support for employment assistance, exam preparation, resource signposting, and for issues related to immigration, housing, transportation, and more.

Every conversation I have with a client teaches me something new about the unique circumstances refugees and asylum seekers face when pursuing a safe life in the UK. I am grateful that RSD provides volunteers with opportunities to equip ourselves with knowledge on the asylum process, the diversity of refugee experiences, and how to engage with clients in a trauma-informed way.

Given the relationships I have witnessed between staff, volunteers, and our clients, I am very optimistic about the potential for incoming refugees and asylum seekers to become happily resettled into Devon communities with RSD's assistance.

Tori, volunteer



Allotment

The allotment continues to be run by Mark and Ann.



Our big highlight was the delivery of a small shed in June and we'd like to thank Exeter University for donating it to us. Delivery was a challenge, but we just about squeezed the surprisingly heavy shed into our allotment!

A few volunteers had to leave us during the course of the year, and there are now only two of us looking after the communal garden. We still managed to produce a good crop of vegetables and fruit. These were given away at St Thomas Together event, St Thomas Winter Market and even via an honesty stall outside my house! We raised about £200 during the course of the year.

We're hoping to engage more volunteers and especially clients to spend time at the allotment, which I think is a haven of peace and tranquillity. There are now plans afoot to set up a women's gardening group!

Mark

Refugee Week Symposium

Prompted by concern on how to help an increasing number of refugees and asylum seekers arriving in the South West, experts from across the region gathered in Exeter on 24 June for a half-day conference centred on offering more support to people fleeing their homes.

RSD partnered with the Exeter City of Sanctuary to host the symposium at the Royal Albert Memorial Museum and Exeter Phoenix. More than 40 individuals from some 20 organisations took part in discussions about the recent arrival of people fleeing Ukraine, new legal developments, mental health support, access to education and more. Participants agreed there is a need for a more coordinated approach among organisations in Devon supporting asylum seekers and refugees. RSD hopes to help facilitate better links between groups in the future.

At the symposium there was also wonderful music! Ali Elmubarak and Knud Stüwe, a Bristol-based duo named Nabra, play the beautiful oud, a lute-like instrument resonant of African and Arabic cultures. Nabra means the sound of one's voice, so while Knud explained the origin of the oud, Ali recounted his escape from Sudan to his work with the refugee community in Bristol.



Staff

Rupert Blomfield	Manager
Annette Hughes	Finance Manager
Denise Parker	Education and Employability Co-ordinator
Harriet Watford	Resettlement Co-ordinator (until Aug '22)
Jennifer Schoen	ESOL Volunteer Manager
Jury Arevalo	Outreach Co-ordinator in initial accommodation hotels (from Dec '22)
Neli Montes de Oca	Casework Co-ordinator
Nick Floyd	Administrative Assistant
Souad Fadel	Resettlement Co-ordinator
Trupti Desai	Administrator
Valentina Todino	Drop-in Co-ordinator (from Aug '22)

Trustees

Jennifer Longford	Chair
David Mezzetti	Secretary
Chris Hill (until Oct '22)	Treasurer
Anna Camilleri	
Bob Mycock	
Edith Fassnidge (from May '22)	
John Green	
Kev Hunter (from Aug '22)	
Ruth Grove-White	
Shehany Warnakulasuriya (from Dec '22)	
Shurouk Al-Sabbagh (until Oct '22)	



Staff and volunteers took advantage of a wide range of online and face-to-face courses. Many took part in the Emergency First Aid at Work course. CPD courses included OET training, Supporting Traumatized People, Casework Skills, Asylum Accommodation, Safeguarding and many others. Staff also did a couple of presentations to the Medical School, Exeter University. We had an away day (a first for us!), thanks to Southcombe Barn, in their superb venue on Dartmoor. It was a therapeutic and rejuvenating day, and we're immensely grateful to Southcombe Barn for their lovely hospitality.

Our Heartfelt Thanks

We'd like to say a big thank you to all the individuals and community groups who raise much-needed funds for us each year. A few highlights include: Richard Toye and Martha Ruvimbo ran marathons; Mollie and Phil Courtney did an epic bike ride; Phil Smith donated one of his abstracts for us to auction (a first for us!); Exeter School, Okehampton College, Bee Harley and her musician friends, the Italian Cultural Association Exeter, and Steve Day all ran events to raise funds for our work; and we were the nominated charity for the prestigious Crux Craft Fair.

We're also hugely grateful to all the charitable trusts and organisations which support our work. Our funders during the reporting period were: 29 May 1961 Charitable Trust, Access to Justice Foundation, ARM Trust, Community Justice Fund, Devon Community Foundation, Devon County Council, East Devon District Council, Exeter City Council, Exeter Phoenix Arts Centre, Hilden Charitable Fund, Jamieson Bystock Trust, Leigh Trust, Lloyds Bank Foundation, Marsh Charitable Trust, National Lottery Community Fund, Rotary Club of Exeter Southernhay and Topsham, Souter Charitable Trust, St Edmunds and St Mary Major Charity, Steel Charitable Trust and Thomas Wall Foundation.

Last but not least, a special thank you to all our one-off and especially, our monthly donors. Your continuing generosity helps us to provide our services to vulnerable clients. To you and to everyone else who supported RSD...THANK YOU!

If you wish to organise a fundraising event for us or you wish to become a regular donor, then please visit our website for further information.

Accounts

	2022-23	2021-22
Income	£232,585	£205,268
Expenditure	£229,869	£195,626

Our full accounts will be ready to view at our AGM in October 2023.

In Memory of Kevin Hunter 1979 - 2023



In May 2023 Kev Hunter - one of our long-standing supporters and volunteers - died suddenly after a short battle with cancer. In 2022, Kev joined RSD's Board of Trustees to assist us with strategy and fundraising. Kev was deeply committed to supporting refugees and migrants in Devon. He co-founded Exeter United FC, a community football club involving people from refugee and migrant backgrounds. Kev's day job was as Head of Programmes and Impact at LandAid, which funds charities supporting young homeless people. In this role he also championed the rights of refugees, including overseeing a special grants fund to assist displaced Ukrainians in the UK.

Kev was much-loved, and made a deep impression on all of us at RSD. He was funny, full of energy and passionately committed to helping others. He inspired us with his strength and positivity in everything he did.

Our thoughts and sympathies are with Kev's wife, Helen, daughter El, and the rest of his family, friends and colleagues.



Refugee Support Devon



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www.refugeesupportdevon.org.uk

Exeter Community Centre
17 St Davids Hill
Exeter EX4 3RG

Registered Charity 1143884
Company Number 7731995



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