

The logo for Reading Refugee Support Group is a green circle with a white border. Inside the circle, the text "Reading Refugee Support Group" is written in white, stacked vertically.

Reading  
Refugee  
Support  
Group

Reading  
Wokingham  
West Berkshire  
Windsor and Maidenhead

# Reading Refugee Support Group

## Annual Report 2016-2017

For the Year ending  
31 March 2017

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# Chair's Report

## Chair's Report 2016-17

Since 1994 Reading Refugee Support Group has offered welcome and assistance to people and families seeking asylum and refuge from war, famines and economic mismanagement. The last year an increasing number of people and families seeking refuge and assistance in Reading have come through our doors and RRSg has supported a number of local authorities in the South East to deliver the UK's Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme. Reading Refugee Support Group in fact played a role in a number of Reading events over the past year: the establishment of Reading as a City of Sanctuary, marking the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the friendship between the towns of Reading and Düsseldorf – a friendship anchored in assistance and refuge to people whose lives were destroyed by the Second World War – and setting up of the Sanctuary Strikers.

The year has also been one of considerable change for the organisation. Two years ago the organisation began a process of diversifying its income sources. While still a developing process our ability to attract alternative forms of funding gives room for cautious optimism. Renewal of the People's Health Trust funding RRSg means a continuation of our Monday drop-in service that provides a social setting as well as a service triage. Conversational English support on Wednesdays was developed in response to requests for more opportunities to practice English and funding by the Home Office's Controlling Migration Fund. Funding from the Quakers supports a dedicated housing officer. We thank all our funders for the trust they place in us.

Diversification of income has been accompanied by growth in staff. Two years ago RRSg consisted of 2 part-time employees and, of course, our invaluable volunteers. Today the organisation employs 9 part-time employees and over 20, invaluable, volunteers. As the annual accounts make clear RRSg's income also increased over the period 2016-17. Growth is not without pain though and trustees and management are working on ensuring that working practices and procedures are changing too. As part of this process we are currently advertising a number of trustee positions.

While the short-term financial outlook, 12 months, looks stable, RRSg continues its work on ensuring a stable source of income to cover core costs beyond this. Advocacy and events provide opportunities for core cost funding, as does our 1-in-1000 campaign, both, of course, initiatives that provide opportunities for members to participate in profile and fund raising, the latter being an area of particular focus in our recruitment of new trustees.

As always an enormous thanks goes to all of our volunteers without whom we would not be able to deliver the services we do. We thank each and every one of you for the generous time you devote to working with us as administrators, case work, publicists, fund raisers, on stalls, in the office, advising clients and offering a warm welcome to RRSg.

Finally, I would like to extend my thanks to Marian McNichol and Nora Honkala who have stepped down as trustees in the past year and to the Board of Trustees who give their time so generously to support RRSg.

**Christian (Andi) Nygaard, Chair of Trustees**

## **Financial Report**

In financial terms, looking at the headline figures, 2016/17 was a very positive year for the charity in terms of income growth. Income grew by £67k to £157k (2015/16, £90k), with £20k of this restricted to specific projects. This growth of almost 75% is particularly pleasing given the funding challenges that are being faced.

Reading Borough Council (RBC) has again been the main funder, providing £38k (28%) of the Charity's core income to fund the advice and support services to asylum seekers, but fundraising activities during the year raised £68k (50%) of the unrestricted income. There was a good spread of grants and individual donations, which shows significant progress from two years ago where only 23% of core funding came from sources other than RBC. It is worth noting that the charity received a large one-off donation from an individual for £25k.

Obtaining funding from RBC continues to be a challenge as funding cuts at local authorities mean budgets are being squeezed. The current round of funding drops from around £35k this year to £25k in the coming year. This means that the current levels of income received through fundraising need to continue to grow to fill this funding gap as the charity adapts to a significant reduction in RBC funding.

A key driver behind the income growth that we have seen in the past year has been the winning of contracts with local authorities in Hampshire and The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (RBWM) to work on the Government's resettlement plan for Syrian Refugees. The Hampshire contract began during the 2015/16 financial year and concluded in 2016/17. The RBWM contract continues with three families having arrived during the year. The charity is in the process of agreeing further contracts, starting in 2017/18, with other local authorities with a view to supporting the Syrian Refugee programme further.

### **Income and Expenditure**

For the reasons set out above income rose from £90k to £157k, with expenditure rising from £78k to £112k. Staff costs, as expected, remain the most significant cost at £65k (2015/16, £49k), but the cost increased at a slower rate than overall expenditure. We saw a threefold increase in refugee welfare expenses as the RBWM contracts began along with increases in travel and training for the same reason. All core costs stayed within budget and all contract costs were funded by the contract

income. The charity ended the year with total funds of £88k, up from £43k at the end of 2015/16. Of these funds £86k (2015/16: £42k) are unrestricted and £2k (2015/16: £1k) are restricted to specific activities.

Despite the growth, funding is a major concern due to the continued reductions in RBC budgets. Nevertheless, trustees and staff remain committed to continue making our vital services available to the refugee community in Reading and neighbouring areas, and we are positively planning to meet their needs. Efforts continue, to diversify the income streams of the charity and reduce over dependence on any one funder.

**Andrew Boctor: RRSB Treasurer**

## Directors Report

2016- 2017 was a significant year for Reading Refugee Support Group (RRSG). We end the year stronger, better resourced, better staffed and looking ahead to a period of organisational stability which we have not had for a few years. We have been increasing the quality, depth and range of our services to refugees and asylum seekers, expanding our services to other areas in Berkshire and developing partnerships with other charities, organisations and faith groups. This has been achieved in the middle of a challenging financial environment.

Reading Borough Council, reeling itself from significant central government cuts, moved from a grants structure and introduced the Narrowing the Gap commissioning framework, where we partnered with Christian Community Action (CCA), CIRDIC, Faith/Readifood, Reading Community Learning Centre and CommuniCare. We have received fantastic support and benefitted from working together. RRSG has also been fortunate to receive great support from the community. We were nominated charities of the parish of St Agnes with St Paul and St Barnabas. We received on-going support from Reading Quaker and Reading Rotary Club.

The Drop in Centre continued all year supported by the People's Health Trust and is going from strength to strength. Due to finish in June 2016 we have secured another grant for a further 2 years. To meet rising demand and increased numbers coming from the drop-in we strengthened our Office Immigration Services Commissioner Service (OISC) casework team with support from the New Beginnings Fund. The success of the drop in centre is an indication of the trust RRSG has built up with the refugee community in Reading and across Berkshire

Springboard were instrumental again in their support of both RRSG and the development of Reading City of Sanctuary, providing funding for a co-ordinator Kate Butler. RRSG hosted Kate and chaired the steering group consisting of Alliance for Cohesion and Racial Equality (ACRE), Reading Voluntary Action (RVA), Reading International Solidarity Centre (RISC), TV Police, the Muslim Council and Red Cross. We are all proud of the progress we made towards Reading becoming an official City of Sanctuary which happened in July 2017.

The UK Government response to the Syrian refugee crisis was to accept 20,000 refugees. RRSG was well placed to offer our advice help and support to local authorities across Berkshire as they developed their strategies and began our first

contract working with the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead. RRSB was proud to be invited to sit as Critical Friends on the voluntary sector led steering group overseeing the Wokingham Borough Council response alongside the Gossip Girls, and Wokingham Baptist Church. Despite 23 years' experience behind us, RRSB still faces a steep learning curve as we help support families arriving from Syria with experiences that most of us will never bear witness to ourselves.

As we look forward to extending our support service further across Berkshire, we have also looked to strengthen relationships with our fellow organisations in Berkshire - Slough Refugee Support and Asylum Welcome in Oxford. In Reading we are fortunate and grateful to work alongside Reading Community Learning Centre and Communicare. We are grateful for their support and look forward to collaborating further.

The workload at RRSB this year seems to have doubled and then doubled again. I am really proud of the way staff and volunteers have responded to the various challenges. We introduced a new post of Deputy Manager filled by Gaby Couchman who has been of great support as we have grown. Gaby has led the development of our case work team and the increasing numbers of clients accessing our services is testament to the support they provide. Flora Roshi has in many ways been the backbone of RRSB, once a client herself, Flora volunteered at RRSB for several years before becoming the Office and Admin Coordinator. Now stepping up to manage the Syrian Support Programme, families arriving from Syria can be in no safer hands. RRSB is very lucky to have such a committed staff team and to have the support of loyal and hardworking trustees. Thank you.

Lastly we are enormously proud that Lord Alf Dubs agreed to become a patron. Lord Alf Dubs famously escaped the Nazis in Prague, via Sir Nicholas Winton's 'Kindertransport' scheme. In the UK, he grew up to become a politician, serving as a Labour MP for many years. He is now a Labour peer, and champions the rights of refugees.

**Nick Harborne, Director**

## **Syrian Resettlement Programme Report**

During the years 2016-2017, Reading Refugee Support Group, once more strives to play their role in supporting Syrian families. This is the second year we have been supporting Syrian families from the Windsor and Maidenhead area, helping them to settle and build their life in a new country.

With the support of the local community and RRSg volunteers we have prepared new homes for the families which they haven't had for a long period of time; The majority of the families arriving under this scheme have spent many years in refugee camps in Jordan and Lebanon. As part of our support we collect the families from the airport, helped them to access welfare support, enrol their children in schools, with the GP, dentist, as well as helping them to arrange the appointments and signpost them to other services. During the first few months we worked closely with the family to help them to adapt to a new culture, integrate and link them to other community groups and befrienders. Our aim is to give the families all the tools they need to become independent and build their life here, with our support around.

We enrolled the families to English for Speakers of another Language (ESOL) classes and arranged one to one English lessons with our volunteers and the families also joined our English conversation classes held on Mondays and Wednesdays at RRSg. As well in our drop in centre on Mondays the families take time to socialise with families from both Syrian and other backgrounds.

All the Syrian families have benefited from the bike kitchen project, offering the families bikes to be more independent, and from the Reading City of Sanctuary Coffee Bank scheme getting free hot drinks, as well, being able to access our drop in centre and the ongoing services at RRSg.

It has been a privilege to work with volunteer and community groups under this scheme. Together we have worked to overcome all challenges of integration; helping the families to settle and encouraging them to become independent. I wish to thank all those involved, especially for your perseverance in some challenging circumstances this year.

### Case study

N arrived in Berkshire under the Syrian Resettlement Programme with her two teenage boys in December 2016. As a family they were supported with integration into their local community and accessing services by RRSB staff and volunteers. The whole family began to increase their independence and develop their language skills by attending our drop in centre. It was here that they befriended many others including other Syrian families who were settled in Reading. And as a result of attending English classes in a matter of months the boy's level of English vastly improved, which has again helped the family to become more independent. The eldest son has also started to volunteer at a charity shop and as well volunteering at our drop in centre on Monday helping the other Syrian families that attend the drop in centre to integrate.

**Flora Roshi, Syrian Support Manager**

## Advice Service

As a result of the complex and sensitive nature of seeking asylum; seeking safety due to a risk of persecution. Our advice service deals with a wide range of queries ranging from support with immigration status changes and understanding of the processes, to dealing with immediate risk of destitution and ongoing challenges with mental health. As a result of the increasingly hostile asylum system the reality of facing destitution is becoming common. This has been one of the greatest challenges for the advice team. Whereby the only entitlement for accommodation support whilst seeking asylum is the National Asylum Support System (NASS) which is means tested and almost certainly results in relocation to a 'dispersal area' outside of the South East of England due to affordability. This inevitably takes clients away from family, support networks and ties to education.

In the past year we have also seen a worrying increase in clients who have been victims of exploitation due to trafficking or slavery. We have supported 7 women who have been recent victims. This support has ranged from assisting with applications to the National Referral Mechanism, emergency accommodation, asylum processes and integration.

Another ongoing challenge faced by our service users is access to mental health support. Our client's mental health issues are commonly derived from experiences in their home country i.e. torture as well as their journey to the UK. However, we know that their mental health can often be exacerbated by ongoing delays in asylum decisions. Systemic cuts to mental health support nationally as well as specific cultural and language needs of our service users creates a barrier to improving wellbeing amongst refugees and asylum seekers.

The statistics compiled for this report also do not fully reflect the number of refugees and asylum seekers we are reaching as case is recorded by lead individual, not inclusive of family members.

Our casework team has been led by Gaby Couchman (Deputy Manager) with assistance from Benham and Rose (OISC caseworkers). Our sincerest thanks also go to our volunteer caseworkers and advisors without who this work would not have been possible.

Lizzie Cairns

Jonathan Ammoun

Rosie Deller

Zarmane Dogar

Nick De Mulder

Matt Ayres

## Casework statistics

In the past 12 months we have dealt with 121 cases with our advice and casework team: derived from the lead family member.

No of active client cases by country of origin	No of clients	
	2016-17	2015-16
Country		
Sudan	15	8
Pakistan	15	12
Syria	9	6
Afghanistan	9	15
Sri Lanka	8	6
Zimbabwe	7	15
Iraq	7	6
Iran	7	11
Kenya	6	3
Albania	5	0
Tanzania	3	2
Libya	3	1
Somalia	2	5
Turkey	2	0
Congo	2	1
Yemen	2	1
India	2	1
Nigeria	2	2
Macedonia	1	0
Rwanda	1	0
Burundi	1	1
Sierra Leone	1	1
Gambia	1	0
Uzbekistan	1	1
China	1	0
Tibet	1	1
Senegal	1	0
Kosovo	1	1
Bangladesh	1	0
Botswana	1	0
Ethiopia	1	0
Eritrea	1	2
Thailand	1	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>107</b>

Out of these cases 61 were new, a 24% increase from 2015-16

Top three new clients by country.

No of new clients by country of origin	TOTAL
Pakistan	9
Syria	7
Sudan	7

### New cases by immigration status

Immigration status of new clients 2016-17	No of clients	
	2016-17	2015-16
Latest immigration status		
Asylum seeker	22	23
Refugee (5 years)	14	14
Indefinite Leave	9	4
Discretionary Leave	1	1
Exceptional Leave	1	1
British Citizen	1	0
Mixed	6	0
Other	7	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>49</b>

### All cases by immigration status

Immigration status of all clients 2016-2017	No of clients	
	2016-17	2015-16
Latest immigration status		
Asylum seeker	57	64
Refugee (5 years)	20	23
Indefinite Leave	13	1
Discretionary Leave	4	3
Exceptional Leave	3	1
British Citizen	1	0
Mixed	6	0
Other	9	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>107</b>

### Casework intensity and queries

In the past 12 months the casework and advice team have undertaken 389 appointments and conducted 378 hours of casework support with 93 of these appointments directly related to destitution, including applications for accommodation provision under the National Asylum Support Service (NASS) section 95 and section 4 provisions of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

### **Case study 1:**

R is an asylum seeker from Afghanistan who lived in Reading with his wife and two infant children. R first came to RRSO having just applied for asylum and sought advice and assistance with applying for s.95 Asylum Support.<sup>1</sup> R also wanted his wife to learn English and for the family to get help with food.

Issue faced:

Whilst RRSO helped R and his family apply for asylum support, the decision can take several weeks. Meanwhile R told his landlord that he could no longer pay the rent for the property. R's landlord then gave him an eviction notice and stated that new tenants will move in shortly. With no funds to rent another property R and his family faced destitution when the new tenants moved in.

Help provided by RRSO:

RRSO supported the family with advice and emotional support throughout this time. Not only did we continue to enrol R's wife in our English lessons but we also assisted the family by making referrals for food parcels and essential clothing.

In the meantime, RRSO caseworkers worked towards submitting a s.98 emergency temporary accommodation application whilst the s.95 was still under review.<sup>2</sup> However, this application can only be made 1 day before the client is due to become destitute. We also advocated for a client with his landlord to get the relevant supporting documents when R felt too embarrassed to ask having previously had a strong relationship with his landlord.

With assistance from Housing Advice charities we also advised R and his family to stay in the property until he was served with a court order eviction notice to ensure the young family had a roof above their head.

Unfortunately, the s.98 emergency accommodation application was rejected as the family had a small amount of money in the bank left to pay off existing household bills. In addition, R kept just enough money to pay for transport for the whole family for reporting.

Our caseworkers subsequently got the decision reviewed after writing supporting letters with the client regarding the expected expenditure. Unfortunately, this review was rejected again. The advice received from the

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<sup>1</sup> S.95 Immigration & Asylum Act 1999

<sup>2</sup> S.98 Immigration & Asylum Act 1999, Initial Accommodation

failed review was that the family could still spend that money on a B&B. However for a family of four a B&B in Reading for one night would still cost approximately £80.

The family however followed the advice given and spent their remaining money to replace a broken double pushchair for their children.

Resolution:

Over one month RRSB provided 30 hours of casework support for the family. The family finally received s.98 accommodation support and shortly after their s.95 support began. They are now currently residing in Scotland.

After arriving at his new accommodation R sent us the following message:

***'I would like to thank the whole team at RRSB for their support and warm welcome every time me and my family used to come to RRSB. The entire team assisted me during this journey. I highly appreciate the team's hospitality and professionalism'***

#### **Case study:**

H is a young man who arrived in the UK as an unaccompanied minor as has been looked after by social services until he turned 21. H was a refugee who now has Indefinite Leave to Remain. H has never been taken into a family unit or fostered. He has only lived in hostels. H speaks excellent English, has obtained GCSEs and has the ambition of going to University. H came to see RRSB after spending 4 months sleeping on the balcony of a friend's house or occasionally on the streets. He only sought help now because he felt that 'as a man he should find his own way'.

Issue faced:

H was destitute; he had recently lost his job due to a delay in receiving confirmation of his indefinite Leave to Remain status from the Home Office. Consequently he also lost his privately rented accommodation. H has never applied for or received benefits and was unaware of what support he is eligible to apply for and how to apply. H had presented himself as homeless to Reading Borough Council; however the council did not consider him vulnerable enough to receive temporary emergency accommodation. H's mental health and wellbeing has also decreased rapidly during this time.

Help provided by RRSB:

RRSB helped H by getting him signed up with the Council's rent guarantee scheme. Our caseworkers also helped him apply for Job Seekers Allowance and made referrals for food parcels and counselling support. We also advised him to join us at our drop-in on a Monday to befriend others and meet our job club advisor to help him develop his CV.

We were able to give H basic support in the provision of blankets, hot water bottle and clothes and signpost him to local homelessness support projects.

We have advised H about the Housing benefit entitlement he has and where he can look for potential housing. Slowly, with additional support H is gaining confidence to apply for jobs and to start to rent a property.

Resolution:

Whilst H presents himself as an articulate and previously independent young man, H has experienced an emotional crisis, resulting in a loss of independence and he was not able to seek help before RRSB came and supported him.

As a result of H accessing support at RRSB he was able to improve his living situation, finding accommodation through the rent guarantee scheme, improved his mental health and found employment.

***'RRSB helped me to find somewhere to live, stopping me sleeping in the street. I also got a job with their help. They took the time to help me, listen and provide support. I wish I had known about them sooner, now they are like family'.***

## **Drop-in Centre**

Over the past 12 months, we have continued to develop our drop-in service, funded by the People's Health Trust. The objective of the drop-in is to provide a weekly meeting point where our service users can improve their integration, skills, confidence and access casework and advice services.

164 service users accessed our drop-in service in the past 12 months.

Our drop-in service provides the following activities and support:

### **English conversation group, Wednesday social group**

We provide support with English learners of all levels including absolute beginners who may also face the challenges of low level or no literacy skills. Our English tutors work in small

groups or one to one to improve their English skills in a practical manner and build their confidence. As a result of the popularity of our English classes and limited access to other English support across Reading we were able to extend our services to another class on Wednesdays, again with the help of the People's Health Trust. This group also develops practical English skills but also centres around socialising.

### **Employability support**

This year we developed a specific advice service at our drop-in to help service users to access courses, volunteering opportunities and develop CVs in order to improve their employment prospects. We had previously seen a gap in this support provision when it came to cultural and/or language barriers. To which volunteering or accessing courses could greatly improve employment opportunities and integration.

### **Casework and advice support**

In addition to our generalised casework support midweek. We provide a casework and advice service at the drop-in. We provide short advice sessions whereby we may signpost to other agencies, form fill or refer to other internal services including longer midweek appointments with our caseworkers. In the past 12 months the People's Health Trust have also enabled us to strengthen this service by funding for an OISC 1 caseworker to also work on this day.

### **Integration and signposting and awareness**

In general our drop-in coordinator and centre volunteers provide a safe and welcoming space for refugees and asylum seekers to access the support they need. We also use this platform to ensure that our service users are aware of other local services and opportunities, aiding integration. As well as promoting health and wellbeing by way of bringing in external agencies to provide awareness sessions i.e. TB check drives or staying warm in winter campaigns.

### **Quotes from service users at our drop-in**

***'This is a great place to be. I am very proud about this place. If it wasn't for this place I don't think I would be like this (confident and feeling supported)'***

**'RRSG has become our home; it is where we feel we belong'.**

## **Drop-in service user feedback 2016-2017**

**97%** of clients stated they felt supported and valued at RRSG

**89%** felt their confidence had increased as a result of accessing our services

**87%** stated that they had made friends whilst accessing our services

**52%** stated that they felt part of their community in Reading

**54%** stated that they have accessed or felt comfortable accessing other services in Reading regarding help with housing, employment or education

## **Our volunteers and projects**

At RRSG we could not provide this invaluable support to our service users without the help of volunteers. In the past 12 months we have had 29 volunteers assist us with our services and projects and we are indebted to them for all their dedication and passion when undertaking these roles. In addition to the casework team we would like thank the following people:

### **Drop-in/project Volunteers:**

Rachel Giglio-Peterson	Adrian Lawson	Liz Bailey
Sunday Kendi	Merry Cross	Alison McQuitty
Donaa Nene	Hadil Tamim	Soha Hafez
Mandy Jonson	Emma Bryant	Anas Monaffal
Parwin Hama-Khan	Claudia Paradis	Andrea Thomas
Tomson Chauke		

### **Administrative/Social Media Volunteers:**

Caroline Hearst	Alice Driver
Cristina Barba	Jean Scott-Barr
Stephen Cook	

### **Homework Club**

Kate Butler	Andrea Thomas	Mariama Sheriff
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### **Interpreter**

Khalid Metawalli

## Activities

During this year RRSB participated and organised different event to raise awareness of asylum seeker and refugees and the hardship they face. RRSB staff members and volunteers also spent a lot of time networking, attending training and workshops as we continue to raise the profile of RRSB.

In the summer time RRSB participated in some events organised in Reading including East Reading Festival, Oxford Road Fun Day and Readipop Festival which was enjoyed by youngsters and their parents. At the Water Festival we had use of a boat donated and the public was invited to see inside and make a donation for RRSB.

This year our partnership with the Reading Film Theatre continued for Refugee Week when we held a screening of the critically-acclaimed film Syrian Love Story with a panel discussion after the film to discuss the issues. Joining us on the panel this year was Stephen Hale CEO of the Refugee Action, former RRSB Chair Alice Cole film director Sean McAllister and the Mayor of Reading Cllr Rose Williams.

<b>2016</b>	
18 <sup>th</sup> April	NCVO Conference 2016: Creating the future for voluntary action
14 <sup>th</sup> May	Meadow Madness. Community Festival - profile and fundraising
24 <sup>th</sup> May	Guest Speaker Fabian Society
11 <sup>th</sup> June	Waterfest Festival – profile and fundraising
18 <sup>th</sup> June	Refugee Week
19 <sup>th</sup> June	East Reading Festival – profile and fundraising
21 <sup>st</sup> June	Film Show Syrian Love Story and panel debate afterwards
30 <sup>th</sup> June	Guest speaker RISC event: Stolen Futures
5 <sup>th</sup> July	Eid Festival Prospect Park - profile and fundraising
9 <sup>th</sup> July	Caversham Festival
14 <sup>th</sup> July	City of Sanctuary AGM Cardiff
25 <sup>th</sup> July	Guest Speaker Green Party meeting
28 <sup>th</sup> July	ACRE AGM

13 <sup>th</sup> Aug	National Citizens Service (NCS) talk
27 <sup>th</sup> Aug	NCS project at the Drop In
10 Sept	Citizens UK World Summit Conference Birmingham: integrating and refugees
12 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Islamic Art workshop at the Drop in Centre
26 <sup>th</sup> Sept	London Legal Walk
27 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Refugees Journeys: Well-being Justice and Resilience – Coventry University
13 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Mental Health Diversity Conference
14 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Guest Speaker Mental Health Day
15 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Panel member at Youth Question Time at Kendrick School
17 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Reading City of Sanctuary Conference at RSIC
20-22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	Effectiveness of communications and advocacy work on refugee issues. Bristol
1 <sup>st</sup> Nov	Reading Live Lab – Reading University
3 <sup>rd</sup> Nov	Panel member: Language and integration. Reading University
11 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Early Scouts talk
22 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	RCLC AGM
25 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Heart of Homelessness Conference
9 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Reading Connect AGM
10 <sup>th</sup> Dec	RRSG Christmas winter party for children
14 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Concert at St Barnabus and talk
<b>2017</b>	
11 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Hate Crime Forum
11 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Rahab Exploitation training
12 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Guest speaker Reading Amnesty International meeting
25 <sup>th</sup> January	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thames Valley Police Faith Summit
25 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Keynote Speaker ACRE Holocaust memorial event with Lord Dubs
28 <sup>th</sup> Jan	‘Having Difficult Conversations with Migrants’. Reading Quakers Meeting House
2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	Oracle Shopping Centre Inclusivity Workshop

10 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Zero Tolerance for FGM International Day Utulivu/Acre
22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb.	“Exchanging experiences of resettlement” conference at Refugee Action
24 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Advanced bid writing
8 <sup>th</sup> March	Hosted and speaker at Celebration lunch in honour of International Women's Day
9 <sup>th</sup> March	RRSG strategic discussion day led by Vodafone
10 <sup>th</sup> March	Speaker - Earley Scout Group
21 <sup>st</sup> March	Henley Business School presentation day
28 <sup>th</sup> March	Rotary Talk
30 <sup>th</sup> March	Acre Pan Equality conference.

## Income and Expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2017

	2017 £	2016 £
<b>Income Resources</b>		
Grants, Donations	124,417	89,826
Other Revenue	32,950	0
Interest	20	13
	<b>157,387</b>	<b>89,839</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Wages & Salaries	65,295	49,283
Freelance & Consultancy	1,112	0
Administration Costs	7,307	5,942
Training	1,289	320
Travelling	3,009	286
Premises	7,180	7,009
Publicity and Publications	1,284	0
Events	4,645	4,870
Refugee Welfare & Expenses	15,896	4,860
Office Equipment	2,572	3,067
Membership Fees & Subscriptions	822	538
Bank Charges & Interest	745	209
Professional Fees	928	990
Sundry Expenses	284	352
	<b>112,368</b>	<b>77,726</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>112,368</b>	<b>77,726</b>
<b>Excess of Expenditure over Income</b>	<b>45,019</b>	<b>12,113</b>

## **RRSG funders**

Reading Borough Council

London Legal Support Trust

The People's Trust

Reading Quakers

New Beginnings Fund

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