

Regional Refugee Forum North East Financial Statements For the Year Ending 31 July 2025

Registered Charity number: 1109815



Contents	Page
Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report)	3
Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees	8
Statement of Financial Activities (Including Income and Expenditure Account)	9
Statement of Financial Position	10
Income and expenditure	11
Notes to the Financial Statements	12

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2025.

Objectives and Activities

The objects of the CIO are:

The advancement or education and the relief of poverty, distress and sickness amongst asylum seekers and refugees in the North East of England and to that end to provide a mechanism for hearing the voice of asylum seekers and refugees by bringing together in council representatives of refugee communities in the area of benefit.

The trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in planning and reviewing activities, which were as follows:

- A programme of network meetings for Refugee-led Community Organisations (RCOs)
- A series of training events for RCOs
- Representation at North East Migration Partnership meetings
- Securing funding from National Lottery Reaching Communities to support the work of the Forum for the next 3 years

Achievements and Performance

Our members are community groups set up and run by people who are refugees and asylum seekers to support other refugees and asylum seekers who live across the North East region. They are known as Refugee-led Community Organisations (RCOs). 114 RCOs have joined our organisation since we began in 2003. We deliver our mission through two core areas of work:

We empower refugees and asylum seekers to take action to support and advocate for their communities. We enable them to turn their ideas for supporting their community into practical action, and to adapt and strengthen their advocacy skills in the UK context.

And we support our members to develop their Collective Voice and use it to influence decision makers so as to promote equality and integration for all refugees and asylum seekers living in the region.

This direct beneficiary community is a community of experience rather than identity. It contains great diversity in terms of nationality, ethnicity, background and faith. However, they all share additional and specific needs arising from their experience of exile and status as asylum seekers and refugees, and face significant and multiple disadvantages, inequalities and social and economic exclusion.

The Regional Refugee Forum North East unites refugee communities from all continents: South America, Middle East, Africa, South East Asia and Eastern Europe, in collective action to gain a greater influence on Policy and Practice, in the interests of all refugees and asylum seekers in the North East region.

Our work enables members to develop advocacy skills, build and widen networks and engage with a whole range of agencies and local and regional engagement platforms relating to economic inclusion, better health and wellbeing, and safety within the neighbourhoods they live in. By hearing the authentic voiced experience of the community, that reflects what is shared rather than what is personal and individual, policy makers and service providers can improve access routes and deliver support that responds to the specific and additional needs and barriers that this community faces, so that they benefit from those services and opportunities on an equal basis to all local residents. We also empower refugee and asylum seeker-led community organisations and initiatives, promoting access to effective empowerment, community development and capacity building support and to funding to enable them to provide a range of unique support actions and solutions to the multiple needs of their communities, particularly in the areas of health, family resilience, community safety, education, training and employment.

Our founding aim is for the region's community of refugees and asylum seekers to strategically use their Collective Voice to influence policy and practice that are the systemic causes of the poverty, disadvantage and exclusion they experience in their daily lives. We deliver this Social Justice agenda through an empowering development practice that aims to be transformative on two levels: the first in that the change it effects in policy and practice will promote the opportunity of all Refugees and Asylum seekers to be full, equal and active citizens, participating in and contributing equally to the social, economic, political and cultural life of the region; the second is that by genuinely being part of the process through which those changes are brought about, our members gain the essential knowledge, skills, networks and confidence to be active agents in further change and develop leadership in civil society.

Financial Review

The charity received income for the year totalling £19,050 with resources expended being £35,056.

The charity carried forward £12,848.

Our reserves policy has a formula to determine the target level of reserves to be held by the organisation, which is equivalent to six months running costs as well as consideration of organisational development priorities. A full review of the reserves policy will be undertaken in the next accounting period as part of the trustees' consideration of the continued challenging financial climate.

Financial dependency

The charity in order to meet its objectives; is not financially dependent on grants from the Local Authorities.

The charity is grateful for the support of government programmes and charitable trusts.

Plans for Future Periods

The trustees are keen to build the financial resources of the charity to enable them to recruit a new team of dedicated workers to build the voice of refugees and people seeking sanctuary for the long term. The political and social climate remains hostile and stressful for the people we support.

Structure, Governance and Management

Legal status and governing document

The organisation is an Unincorporated Association registered with the Charity Commission on 4 March 2003.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

The charity had 8 trustees during the reporting period

Trustee induction and training

New trustees are provided with information on their legal obligations under charity regulations. They receive a copy of the constitution most recent accounts and current business plan, and are briefed as to work in progress and funding sources. Trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate external training events that will facilitate the undertaking of their role and occasional development opportunities in-house with staff or around particular areas of work.

Risk management

The trustees assess the major risks to which the charity is exposed, including both the operations and finances of the charity, and are satisfied that there are sufficient systems to mitigate exposure to significant risks. A key element in the management of financial risk is the setting of a reserves policy and its regular review by trustees.

Organisational structure

The Trustee Board meets at least four times per year.

Fundraising

The charity does not carry out any significant funding activities. Parents, carers and local philanthropists have been generous and made donations. The majority of the income this year has been from grants and earned income. In future the majority of income will be raised through earned income in the café and the planned bakery.

Reference and Administrative Details

Registered charity name: The Glowsticks Project

Charity registration number 1209803

Principal office and registered office:

2nd Floor, Vanguard Suite
Broadcasting House, Gilkes Street
Middlesbrough
TS1 5JA

The Trustees:	Ramatoulie BJ Saidykhan	Chair
	Riada Kullani	
	Samsoudini Moussa	
	Mohammed Ali Abdullah	
	Asadollah Ibrahim	
	Nida Muzaffar	
	Nishanthini Mayurathan	
	Alice Mupaya Masuku	

Independent Examiner:

John Atkinson
Middlesbrough Voluntary Development Agency
2nd Floor, Vanguard Suite
Broadcasting House, Gilkes Street
Middlesbrough
TS1 5JA

The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements and Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) for accounting and reporting for charities

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Alice Mupaya

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Regional Refugee Forum North East for the Year Ended 31 August 2025.

I report on the accounts for the Trust for the year ended 31 July 2024 which are set out on pages 5 - 9.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner:

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year, under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act), and that an independent examiners report is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and - to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiners report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with these records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters.

The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiners' statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements to:

- (1) keep accounting records in accordance with s130 of the 2011 Act; and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met;

or

- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



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John Atkinson

17 December 2025

Statement of Financial Activities (Including Income and Expenditure Account)

	2025		2025	2024
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	funds	funds
				£
Income all sources				
Grant income	£ -	£ 19,000	£ 19,000	£ 69,761
Donations/legacies	£ 50		£ 50	£ 500
Other income	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ 4,019
Total income	£ 50	£ 19,000	£ 19,050	£ 74,280
Expenditure				
Expenditure on Charitable activities	£ 10,616	£ 24,440	£ 35,056	£ 96,887
Total Expenditure	£ 10,616	£ 24,440	£ 35,056	£ 96,887
Net (expenditure)/income	-£ 10,566	-£ 5,440	-£ 16,006	-£ 22,607
Reconciliation of Funds				
Total funds brought forward	£ 23,413	£ 5,440	£ 28,853	£ 49,988
Total funds carried forward	£ 12,847	£ -	£ 12,847	£ 27,381

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Statement of Financial Position 31 July 2025

	2025	2024
Fixed Assets		
Tangible fixed assets	0	0
Current Assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	12848	34344
Creditors: amounts falling due within 1 year	0	6963
Net Current Assets	12848	49988
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities	12848	49988
Net assets	12848	49988
Funds of the Charity		
Restricted funds	0	4180
Unrestricted funds	12848	45808
Total Charity funds	12848	49988

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 9 January 2026, and are signed on behalf of the board by:

Alice Mupaya
Chairperson

Income and expenditure Y.E. 31 August 2025

Income	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Awards for All		£ 19,000	£ 19,000
	£ 50		£ 50
Totals	£ 50	£ 19,000	£ 19,050
Expenditure	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Bookkeeping	£ 1,352		£ 1,352
Accountant	£ 1,249		£ 1,249
HR admin	£ 1,088		£ 1,088
Project delivery costs	£ 3,562	£ 19,000	£ 22,562
Travel	£ 170		£ 170
Insurance	£ 305		£ 305
Cleaning	£ 90		£ 90
Rent Bizspace	£ 192		£ 192
IT Support	£ 507		£ 507
Microsoft account	£ 159		£ 159
Zoom account	£ 156		£ 156
Phones	£ 1,522		£ 1,522
Network meetings	£ 1,018		£ 1,018
Move on Project support	£ 2,032		£ 2,032
Move on Project translations	£ 2,654		£ 2,654
Totals	£ 16,056	£ 19,000	£ 35,056
Balance b/f	£ 28,853		
Income in period	£ 19,050		
Expenditure in period	£ 35,056		
Balance c/f	£ 12,847		

Notes to the accounts: Accounting Policies

General

These accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis, and in accordance with the Charities SORP 2005 (Statement of Recommended Practice), and the Charities Act 2011.

Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Assets used for charitable purposes, with an expected useful life exceeding one year, are capitalised on the balance sheet. Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its expected useful life:

- Office Equipment 25% on reducing balance
- Computer Equipment 3 years straight line

Income

Income received is made up of donations, grants and bank interest. The income is included in the SOFA when it is received. The value of services provided by Trustees is not included.

Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on a paid basis. Where it relates to a specific project it is allocated to that project as restricted expenditure. Expenditure that relates to the objects of the charity is classified as charitable activities. The costs of generating funds are separately identified.

Grant funding

National Lottery Awards for All	£19,000
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Trustee Remuneration and Expenses

No remuneration directly or indirectly out of the funds of the charity was paid or payable for the year to any trustee or to any person or persons known to be connected with any trustee.