



West End Refugee Service

strength through support



Issue 68: January 2017

WERS is facing a funding crisis.....

Just before Christmas we learned that we had been knocked back by our biggest funder, Big Lottery, and this was devastating news. Our current Big Lottery grant finishes at the end of May and two other substantial grants are due to come to an end around the same time. WERS is therefore facing an unprecedented fundraising challenge. In discussion with our trustees, it has been decided to be open about our financial situation in the hope that new and existing supporters across the region will come to our aid.

but we are determined to secure its future!

WERS is exploring a wide range of funding sources, including crowdfunding, increasing individual giving and support from businesses as well as trusts and foundations on which WERS has principally relied for its core funding in the past. We have just secured a £30,000 donation from a new funder, the ArmTrust, and hope that this will be the first of many new grants and donations. We are also in the first year of two 3 year grants from Lloyds Bank Foundation and Shears Foundation.

Why WERS is needed

‘The actions and support of WERS through very difficult situations. And standing up for us. These are the things that really transform a person’s life.’ (WERS client quoted in independent evaluation August 2016)

Asylum seekers and refugees living in Newcastle rely on WERS for their basic needs and, for the last 17 years, have come to the project in ever- increasing numbers. Last year WERS supported 520 men and women and reached out to 1,866 local people through its education and awareness work.

‘In alleviating the worst experiences of destitution, disadvantage, exclusion, isolation and poverty among stakeholders, the social impact of WERS is immense. It is hard to fathom what the impacts upon Tyneside and the North East might be in the absence of a service so rich in experience and rare skills.’ (Burge Surtees Associates, independent evaluation of WERS August 2016)

How can you help?

- **Set up a standing order to support our project costs**
- **Make a one-off donation for project costs**
- **Put us in touch with an individual or business that might be interested in supporting us**
- **Organise a fundraising event**
- **Join the WERS fundraising group**

One of the easiest ways to make a donation or set up a standing order is online via our website www.wers.org.uk Alternatively, donations can be sent to our office. For help setting up a standing order offline just call or email us.

There are some fundraising ideas on the website, too. If you're interested in joining the WERS fundraising group, please contact our volunteer co-ordinators Sarah and Hannah: volunteers@wers.org.uk

Festive Week 2016



Ali, our support worker, poised to start distributing the boxes during the morning drop-in advice session.

Once again we were bowled over by the extraordinary generosity of our supporters. We were able to give each of our destitute clients a bag of gifts, a shoe box of presents donated by the Mothers Union and an extra week's financial support from our Hardship Fund. Thank you all so much for making this possible!

Introducing Hannah Barnes, our new volunteer co-ordinator



In November Hannah joined Sarah in the volunteer co-ordinator job-share. Hannah works all day Tuesday and Wednesday and Monday mornings from 10-12.

Has anyone a wheelchair that they don't need anymore?
One of the destitute clients would greatly appreciate the use of one. Please contact our office if you can help.

Office details:

**West End Refugee Service
St Philip's Vicarage
St Philip's Close
Arthur's Hill
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE4 5JE
Tel: 0191 273 7482
Fax: 0191 256 7862
Email: info@wers.org.uk
Website: www.wers.org.uk**

