



West End Refugee Service

strength through support



Issue 79 October 2019

Annual General Meeting



Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on Tuesday 15th October 2019 at Summerhill Bowling Club.

We were pleased to welcome over 50 supporters, donors, volunteers and clients who joined us for the AGM, as well as to celebrate our 20th Anniversary!

We celebrated with a “20 Years 20 Stories” exhibition, displaying 20 stories and photographs from 20 WERS clients through the years. We also had a showcase of our *skillsmatch* programme, a performance from Skimstone Arts, a raffle and some delicious “WERS cupcakes”! 😊



After many years of support, three of our Trustees stepped down at the AGM. This included our Treasurer, Gordon Wanless, as well as Dorothy Craw and Tim Kell. We would like to express our thanks and gratitude to all three for all their support to WERS over the years.

We welcomed to the board two new Trustees, Les Roberts and Md Mominul Hamid. Les and Md bring valuable insight and experience to the board which will support us to continue moving forward as a charity – welcome to both!



Vision, Mission & Values

At the AGM we announced WERS’ new Vision, Mission and Values. They were developed collaboratively using feedback from Trustees, staff, volunteers and clients to ensure that we reflected a broad set of views in our strategic direction.

Vision

Safe, healthy and fulfilling lives for people who are asylum seekers and refugees

Mission

Our passionate and committed team of staff and volunteers will endeavour to make a positive, lasting difference in the lives of asylum seekers and refugees. We will do this by providing supportive and empowering services and opportunities which are responsive to people’s needs, showing them dignity and respect. We will raise awareness, educate and positively challenge discrimination and negative perceptions towards asylum seekers and refugees.

Values

- Equality
- Respect
- Inclusion
- Collaboration

Together, these statements provide direction for everything that happens in WERS, keeping everyone focused on what we’re trying to achieve. They define the core values of the organisation and how people are expected to behave. They are not intended to restrict or inhibit initiative and innovation, but they are intended to guide decisions and behaviours to achieve common ends.

Annual Report & Accounts

Our 2018/19 Annual Report and Accounts are now available on our website:

www.wers.org.uk/resources/client-ents



The report details WERS' performance and achievements throughout 2018/19, including the number of people we have supported, how many volunteers have supported us and our clients, as well as a spotlight on one of our clients journey into volunteering.

If you would like a hard copy please contact: info@wers.org.uk

Volunteers needed for our Clothing Store!



We are receiving a lot of much needed and much appreciated donations to our Clothing Store, but are now in need of some additional volunteers on Wednesday afternoons to help with sorting the donations and stocking our store. If you are

interested, please get in touch via volunteers@wers.org.uk.



You can apply for the role by completing our application form, downloadable from our website:

<http://www.wers.org.uk/how-to-help/volunteering>

Goodbye Lorraine!

After a short time with WERS, one of our Volunteer Co-ordinators, Lorraine Kerr, has decided that for personal reasons her future lies elsewhere. We wish her all the best for the future!



Check us out on Social Media

If you're not already connected with us on social media, you can 'follow' us on Twitter and 'Like' us on Facebook: **@WestEndRefugee** where you can receive information, regular updates and news on what we've been up to.



Festive Week Appeal

We will be collecting donations to give to all the destitute asylum seekers we work with during Festive Week, 16th – 20th December.

We would be enormously grateful for any of the following items for the 124 male clients WERS is currently supporting:

- Socks
- Men's shampoo
- Chocolate
- Toothbrushes
- Men's shower gel
- Toothpaste
- Men's Deodorant

We are also supporting 19 female destitute clients and so women's shower gel, shampoo, deodorant and chocolate for them would also be great.

If we could have them by the end of November, that would give us time to sort all the gifts.

We also try to give destitute clients additional payments from the Hardship fund over the Christmas period, therefore, if anyone would like to make any additional financial donations, please visit our Just Giving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/wers>



Thank you very much for all your support!

