

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

April 2024 To March 2025

Journey LGBT+ Asylum Group

Address; c/o The Old Post Office, 1533 Pershore Road, Birmingham, B30 2JH

Charity registration number: 1212001

Trustees:
Alexandra Taylor
Sheila Rushforth
Helen Hibberd

Trustees Report

Objectives and Activities

Objectives as set out in the constitution:

The objects of the CIO are:

1. To relieve the needs of LGBT+ asylum seekers and those granted refugee status and their dependants in the West Midlands in particular, but not exclusively, by:

    i) creating safe and welcoming spaces for connection and community,
    ii) providing befriending, mentoring and one-to-one support,
    iii) coordinating group activities and improving access to community activities to facilitate integration,
    iv) providing support, information and signposting through the asylum process and beyond.

2. To advance for the public benefit the education of the public in general about the issues relating to LGBT+ asylum seekers and refugees.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements:

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing an annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993, the charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Aims and objectives:

OUR MISSION
Empowering people who identify as LGBT+ through the asylum process and beyond.

OUR VISION
To create a safe space for LGBT+ asylum seekers and refugees in the West Midlands, helping them find community, healing and support, throughout their asylum journey.

OUR AIMS
- To create safe and welcoming spaces for connections and community among LGBT+ asylum seekers.
- To enhance confidence, resilience, and self-acceptance among members.
- To provide information and signposting through the asylum process and beyond.
- To promote greater inclusion across the West Midlands and collaborating with other groups to support LGBT+ asylum seekers.

OUR VALUES
- Security: We prioritise creating a safe and liberating environment where everyone can be themselves without fear.
- Acceptance: We embrace all individuals with compassion, openness, and a non-judgemental attitude, ensuring everyone feels valued.
- Recognition: We acknowledge each person's dignity and experiences, ensuring they feel seen, validated, and respected.
- Empowerment: We encourage and support individuals to take agency over their lives, fostering self-respect and partnership.
- Belonging: We cultivate a sense of family and trust, building deep connections and friendships within our community.
- Positivity: We inspire hope, optimism, and courage, promoting a positive outlook and resilience in our members.

Summary of the main achievements during the period:

During the course of the financial year (April 24-March 25), we supported over 200 members.

We did this by offering 12 monthly in-person members meetings with an average of 46 members attending each meeting. These meetings provide valuable meeting space for LGBT+ Asylum seekers who are often isolated from other services and communities. Meeting topics range from fun activities, such as a

singing workshop with Brum Rocks, to more serious topics, such as LGBT+ identities and Home Office interviews.

We offered 12 monthly Zoom sessions, which provide a safe space for members to talk, make connections and learn about aspects of the UK, such as cultural traditions and how to write to your MP.

We also ran a wide range of wellbeing activities including a bluebell walk in April and a picnic in August, and supported members to attend dance classes, football training, gardening activities, cricket sessions, creative workshops, museum exhibitions, cultural celebrations and theatre shows. We collaborated with Sampad on the 'Pride Heart' project – a series of creative and wellbeing workshops culminating in a stage performance. A large cohort of Journey members also marched together in the Birmingham Pride parade.

Our Buddy scheme went from strength to strength – this is a peer to peer support group for more established members to support and welcome newer members into the group. Buddies also play a valuable role in running and facilitating our monthly in person and online meetings.

We also raised the profile of the organisation, through the development of the group website, and especially through securing a Sanctuary Grant from Birmingham City Council's Migration Team. We have used this grant as a platform for promoting our work, networking and engaging with other groups to raise awareness of the specific needs of LGBT+ asylum seekers.

Structure, governance and management:

The charity is operated under the rules of its constitution adopted on 24th January 2025.

Financial review:

Journey LGBT+ Asylum Group has a generous pool of local and regional charitable trusts and funders, and good support from individual, and community funders. Journey LGBT+ Asylum Group raised **£5100** from charitable trusts and foundations, **£2919** from community donations and **£321** for repayments for bus tickets from other organisations.. At the end of the financial year, we had total funds of **£6743** (£6396 unrestricted, £347 restricted). Out of these funds **£3625** (unrestricted funds) was designated to reserves (accounting for three months of operating costs), **£347** (restricted funds) was carried forward and designated to the projects that the funding was restricted to and **£2771** unrestricted funds was designated to specific future project funding.

Reserves policy:

Our reserves policy states that we should hold three months operating costs.

Declarations:

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signatures		
Full name	Sheila Rushforth	Alexandra Taylor
Position	Chair of Trustees	Trustee
Date	08/08/25	08/08/25

Receipts and payments account

For the year ended 31 March 2025

RECEIPTS	**Unrestricted funds**	**Restricted funds**	**Total funds 2024/25**	**Total funds 2023/24**
	£	£	£	£
Funds received	4,420	3,920	**8,340**	**19,540**
Total receipts	4,420	3,920	**8,340**	**19,540**
PAYMENTS				
Charitable Activities	500	13,078	**13,078**	**9,706**
Total Payments			**13,578**	**9,706**
Net of receipts/(payments)			**-5,238**	**9,834**
Cash funds last year end	2,476	9,505	**11,980**	**2,147**
Cash funds this year end	6,396	347	**6,743**	**11,980**

Analysis of payments:

Items	**Total 2024/25**	**Total 2023/24**
	£	£
Monthly members' meetings	3648	6126
Buddy scheme	251	710
Wellbeing activities/trips/one-to-one support	2999	2001
Marketing	531	554
Organisational development	5558	41
Admin/overheads	590	275
Total	**13578**	**9706**

Analysis of income 2024/25:

Restricted Income	**Amount £**	**Sub-total £**
Birmingham Pride Community Foundation	3600	
Martineau Gardens (bus ticket repayment)	128	
Fabrique (bus ticket repayment)	65	
Jon Homer (Bus ticket repayment from Out in Cov)	128	
Restricted Income sub-total		*3920*
Unrestricted Income		
Anonymous Funder	1500	
Kings Heath Action For Refugees	1653	
Community Donations	1262	
Miscellaneous	5	
Unrestricted Income sub-total		*4420*
Total Income	**8340**	**8340**