

Trustees' Annual Report

for the period

28th July 2018 to 27th July 2019

Malvern Welcomes

Registered Charity Number 117400

42, Cowleigh Bank Malvern, Worcestershire WR14 1QR

A. Trustees

Dan Herbert Chair

John Raine

Ruth Forecast

Richard Stockford

Susan Wolfendale

Rosemary Thorp

B. Structure, governance and management

Malvern Welcomes is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with a constitution, adopted 27th July 2017.

Trustees are appointed or reappointed at the Annual General meeting held in October.

We have members, who pay an annual subscription, have voting rights and receive our newsletter. In addition, we have supporters who receive the newsletter and who may attend open meetings and the AGM, but with no voting rights.

There is a Safeguarding Policy in place, which has been written incorporating advice offered by the Home Office and the Worcestershire Safeguarding panel and which is regularly reviewed. All volunteers who have contact with family members will have an up to date enhanced DBS; will have completed safeguarding and befriending training and will have supplied two references; will have provided identity

verification; and will have been interviewed by two people, at least one of whom is a trustee.

Malvern Welcomes Trustees meet every three months and receive a report from the Management Team (which meets monthly) and all policy papers following their annual review.

Malvern Welcomes is seeking to recruit three new trustees at the October 2019 AGM, so as to create a clearer separation between Trustees and Management. Three people have been approached and have expressed an active interest.

All trustees give their time on a voluntary basis and receive no remuneration or other benefits.

Malvern Welcomes plays an active part in the Worcestershire network of Welcome groups, Worcestershire Welcomes. This body liaises with Worcestershire County Council regarding the programme of refugee resettlement in the county through the Home Office Vulnerable Person's Resettlement scheme (VPR scheme). In addition, there are jointly planned social events for refugees in the County and an open exchange of experience and ideas.

Malvern Welcomes, through a sub-section, Malvern Open Homes, is linked with national charity Refugees at Home and from time to time we are contacted with a request to provide temporary accommodation for either refugees or asylum seekers. We have a group of local hosts who have offered the use of spare rooms for this purpose. No rent or expenses are asked for. These hosts have been approved and verified by Malvern Welcomes.

C. Objectives and activities.

The relief of financial hardship amongst those granted refugee status and their dependants living (temporarily or permanently) in Malvern and the surrounding area within Worcestershire – by providing housing, advice and practical support (including loans or grants

The advancement of the education and training of those granted refugee status and their dependants; assistance in adapting within a new community.

The relief of unemployment of those granted refugee status and those seeking asylum within Worcestershire, by the provision of vocational skills training, advice and support.

The promotion of social inclusion for the public benefit among those who are refugees and asylum seekers who are socially excluded on grounds of their social and

economic position, by providing education and training in English language and in vocational skills and housing services to meet identified needs.

The advancement of education of the public in general about issues relating to refugees and asylum seekers.

In planning our activities for the year, we kept in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit at our trustee meetings.

- Full Community Sponsorship

We have overseen a successful and busy year, as we have welcomed a second family to Malvern via the Community Sponsorship (CS) scheme.

The charity has continued to support the first CS family, who arrived in the UK in June 2018, as they move towards independence and become more integrated into life in the UK. In December 2018, following a second application to the Home Office, another family was welcomed to Malvern. Since then the Malvern Welcomes Team has supported both families as they adapt to their new life in Britain. This has involved arranging medical appointments, assisting with benefit applications, helping the family in the choice of school, familiarising them with the local area and very importantly the provision of English language teaching (ESOL). To do this two teams have been formed – those involved with ESOL, with the guidance of an experienced ESOL co-ordinator and those involved with day to day support and the arrangement of services, the Family Support Team. There is some overlap and much coordination between these teams. Both the ESOL and Family Support Teams have regular meetings. There has been continued interest from local people in volunteering with the work.

The charity has had monitoring visits from the Home Office Community Sponsorship Team, who held meetings with both members of Malvern Welcomes and the two families.

The year has seen family members making good progress with English. Naturally this has led to increased confidence in interactions with outside organisations such as GPs, banks, utility companies and a significant move towards independence. Volunteering opportunities and social events have furthered integration with the local community. Malvern Welcomes seeks to foster this progress.

We have not made an application to resettle another family as we have been concerned not to overload our volunteer team, and appropriate housing has not been available, although there are possibilities.

- Supporting other refugees

In this reporting year Malvern Welcomes Trustees have made the decision to extend our support to those families who have come to Malvern through the government Vulnerable

Persons Resettlement Scheme, administered by Worcestershire County Council (WCC). There are three such families, the first having arrived in October 2018. **Our aim is to provide support that complements and enhances that which is provided through the local authority via Refugee Action to whom they have tendered the resettlement of refugees.** Each family has a small team of volunteers with a co-ordinating Lead. The ESOL team is also working with all five families in Malvern, and customizes their teaching to their individual requirements.

- Community involvement

Malvern Welcomes has received amazing support from the Malvern Community, both through people who have volunteered to be personally involved with the charity's activities, those who have shown a continued interest and those individuals and organisations who have contributed financially to the charity. We have an enthusiastic team of volunteers, who are willing to be involved with the families, attend meetings and contribute to the proper running of the charity.

We have received funding from the Home Office to organise an arts-based project, run in a local church. This has been held on five Saturdays over the summer months and has brought together members of the local community and resettled families. From these events friendships have developed, which have extended beyond the project. They have been a real 'Coming Together', as the project was entitled.

As our Financial Return shows, local churches have given generous financial support and several have given us free use of their rooms. One has made us their 'Charity of the Year' for a second year running. A representative from Malvern Welcomes reports regularly to Malvern Churches Together.

Research has shown (University of Birmingham, Institute for Research into Superdiversity) that the type of volunteering activity we provide has many gains for those taking part. Volunteers acquire new skills and knowledge, have the opportunity to attend training and develop new friendships and links with the wider neighbourhood.

We also see the charity's work as leading to an increased diversity in the community, to an extension of tolerance and inclusion and a challenging of stereotypes about migrants, as people get to know individuals who have arrived in Malvern as refugees.

- Open meetings

Malvern Welcomes has run one meeting in October 2018, to promote the charity and involve/inform the local community concerning our activities. This was held in a community centre and was well attended.

- Education outreach, talks and research.

Malvern Welcomes has participated in research carried out by Birmingham University into the Community Sponsorship programme. The charity has assisted in surveys sent by Reset (a charity leading Community Sponsorship in the UK) and the Home Office, into how Community Sponsorship is working in the UK. In this way the charity hopes that by sharing our experiences and knowledge, other Community Sponsorship groups will benefit, as we have benefitted from others.

Members of the charity have given talks to local schools and groups about Malvern Welcomes and the wider refugee situation.

- Worcestershire Welcomes

As active members of the umbrella organisation for Welcome Groups in the county representatives of Malvern Welcomes attend the bi-monthly meeting in Worcester.

The charity supports events organised by other Welcome groups in the county and works with Worcestershire County Council and other agencies to promote the welfare of families who have been resettled in Worcestershire.

- Malvern Open Homes

Malvern Welcomes, through a sub-section, Malvern Open Homes, is linked with the national charity Refugees at Home and from time to time we are contacted with a request to provide temporary accommodation for destitute refugees or asylum seekers. We have a group of local hosts who have offered the use of spare rooms for this purpose. No rent or expenses are asked for.

D. Achievements and performance

- Re-settling a second family through the Community Sponsorship Scheme
- Successful monitoring visits by the Home Office.
- Being nominated by a local church as their 'Charity of the Year' for the second time.
- Extending our support to all resettled families in Malvern.
- Receiving a 'Pride of Malvern -Improving Lives' award from Malvern Hills District Council in March 2019.
- Supporting two families through serious health crises, so far with promising outcomes.
- The charity has received a grant from the Home Office to fund integrating activities and preparation for employment.
- One family member has received an offer of part time employment.

Future plans: the charity will:

- make application to the Home Office to receive a third family via the Community Sponsorship Scheme.
- continue to offer support to all resettled families coming to Malvern by way of befriending and ESOL.
- maintain the aim of integration and independence in our work with families.
- continue to support Worcestershire Welcomes and play an active part in its activity.
- continue to raise funds for families currently in Malvern and those coming to Malvern in the future.
- maintain our objective of the advancement of education of the public in general about issues relating to refugees and asylum seekers

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees.

Signature(s)