



2017 Annual Report

Positive Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers

registered charity: 1120950

2017 Drop-in stats:

5676 visits to the drop-in

3105 Food parcels

720 Toiletry packs

5100 Hot meals

6120 Volunteer hours



Chair's Report

PAFRAS has continued to grow and develop in this operational year and we've seen the project professionalise in many ways whilst maintaining trust and a strong relationship with asylum seeking and refugee communities in Leeds, often hidden from mainstream services.

Our multi-agency Drop-In has continued to be busy and buzzing. We're proud to work with our delivery partners British Red Cross, Skyline, Touchstone, Bevan Healthcare and Leeds Asylum Seeker Support Network to provide this essential service to asylum seekers and refugees living in destitution and facing crisis. We want to say a special thank you to our committed, dedicated and hardworking Volunteer Team, many of whom have lived experience of the asylum system, who are the life and soul of the Drop-In and come together every week to ensure our service-users feel welcomed and helped. We also want to thank our partner, Touchstone, who have supported PAFRAS to recruit and train over 130 volunteers in the five years they have been delivering our Volunteer Project using their own resources to do this. We look forward to developing a new partnership with Manuel Bravo who will be taking the Volunteer Project forward in 2018.

A significant development for PAFRAS this year has been the Big Lottery Help Through Crisis project in partnership with Asylum Support Appeals Project, Solace and British Red Cross. This project has enabled PAFRAS to recruit a much needed additional Caseworker to work alongside our existing team to provide advice and guidance for asylum seekers facing or living with destitution. This project has also enabled PAFRAS to reach out into Kirklees where we are providing advice one day a week out of The Mission where a number of refugee support services are based.

As ever the Trustees would like to pay tribute to our fantastic and committed team whose positivity and determination make a difference to people's lives week in, week out - all year round. The team have embraced new challenges with enthusiasm and have been active in shaping the development of the organisation, responding to the ever-changing environment.

Finally, we can't let it go un-noted that Alison Lowe, after four years, stood down as Chair in 2017. Alison oversaw some significant changes in PAFRAS and used her skills, expertise and vision to steer the organisation into a secure place. We're very pleased that Alison has remained on the Board of Trustees.

Dinah Beckett, Chair PAFRAS

2017 Casework:**479 individuals****252 new clients****1570 1:1 casework sessions delivered****103 individuals accessed legal advice****43 individuals accessed Home Office support**

At PAFRAS our work focuses on providing advice and support for asylum seekers and refugees experiencing destitution, extreme hardship and crisis situations. We deliver this over three main strands:

emergency support & humanitarian relief, specialist destitution Casework and integrated mental health support.

We're very proud to have achieved OISC Level 2 accreditation in November of 2017, thanks to Refugee Action Front Line Immigration Project for the training and support. This will enhance our advice offer and enable us to deliver immigration advice such as exploring the evidence an asylum seeker may need to find in order to make further submissions to the Home Office.



The PAFRAS Office



Activities in the Drop-In



Activism #refugeeswelcome

"I am very happy with PAFRAS and what they are doing with people like me. They are very friendly and helpful, thanks to them most of our problems have been solved"

Case study, Dariush

Dariush had regular contact with the Mental Health Assessment Worker, Caseworker and Volunteer Team during his visits to the PAFRAS weekly drop-in. Dariush was dealing with high levels of stress which had led to self-harm in the past. The MHAW supported Dariush to start attending a peer support group and continued to check in with him every week. Dariush received some disappointing news from the Home Office regarding his asylum claim, he attended the drop-in that week appearing confused and in a very low mood. The MHAW spent time with Dariush who disclosed he had taken an overdose of his medication earlier that day. The MHAW agreed with the PAFRAS Director to call for emergency support and Dariush went into A&E. The MHAW worked in partnership with the mental health nurse at Dariush's GP to put a support plan in place. The plan included ESOL support, spending time with others, attendance at the Drop-in, monitoring at his GP surgery and regular sessions with the MHAW who offered a safe space each week for Dariush to reflect on his feelings, discuss worries and practice mindfulness activities. Alongside this Dariush was meeting his PAFRAS Caseworker to access further legal advice and explore options to re-enter Home Office accommodation and support. Dariush became stronger, more resilient and able to draw on his trusted support network to enable him to make important and informed decisions about his situation.

Mental Health Assessment Worker:**332 mental health & well-being assessments****169 new clients****221 referrals to specialist therapy, well-being and integration activities****80% of referrals led to engagement with services****8 mental health crisis situations**

Finance Report, 2016/17

Income for the year was £252,106 (2016: £167,024). Expenditure amounted to £208,221 (2016: £155,194). This resulted in a surplus for the year of £43,885 (2016: £11,830 surplus). Fund balances at the year-end were £95,803 (2016: £51,918) of which £67,856 (2016: £39,518) was unrestricted and available for general use.

Expenditure, 2016/17

Wages and sessional work, £103,333	Postage and stationery, £1905
Food and toiletries (in kind), £50,000	Rent (office/Drop-in) and rates, £14,895
Support costs, £5160	Volunteer expenses, £6520
Light and heat, £1226	Client hardship payments, £4739
Other, £7444	Security, £3895
Governance, £300	Publications and subscriptions, £244
Telephone & internet, £2569	Peer Support, £4249
Staff travel, £1742	

Our Supporters and Donors, 2016/17



The PAFRAS Food Room

£50,000 donated in kind to PAFRAS in the form of food and toiletries. Items include rice, chickpeas, kidney beans, tinned fish, tinned vegetables and coffee as well as fresh fruit, salads, shampoo, shower gel and prepared hot meals which are donated each week.

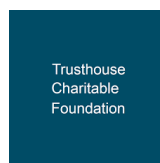
PAFRAS has an incredible supporter base making regular donations of food, toiletries and clothing as well as generous financial contributions. We're very grateful to our supporters. There are too many to list, and we're very aware and grateful of that, but to give an indication of the level of support the faith and community sector are providing (as well as individual supporters) here is a snapshot:

Holy Rosary, Thomas Moore & John Fisher, St. Augustine's, Leeds Grand Mosque, Sinai Synagogue, Quaker Meeting Houses, Give a Gift, St. Matthews, Leeds Goth Festival and St. Chad's.



Kitchen volunteers at the Drop-In

Our Funders, 2016/17



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