



Trustees' Annual Report for the period						
From	Period start date			To	Period end date	
	01	January	2023		31	December 2023

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name **Canterbury for Ukraine**

Other names charity is known by **C4U**

Registered charity number (if any) **N/A**

Charity's principal address

c/o KENT REFUGEE ACTION NETWORK
SIMMONDS ROAD
WINCHEAP INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, CANTERBURY
Postcode: CT1 3RA

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Trustee name	Office (if any)
1. Anastasia Skelton	N/A	7. Domenica Pecoraro	N/A
2. Annette King	N/A	8. Giles Polglase	N/A
3. Brian Bennett	N/A	9. Oksana Styles	N/A
4. Connie Nolan	N/A	10. Olena Nizalova	N/A
5. David Clarke	Treasurer	11. Philip Pothen	N/A
6. Denys Nizalov	Chair		

Our Patrons:

- Baroness Alison Mary Suttie, Member of House of Lords of the United Kingdom;
- Ms. Anne Decker, Former Lord Mayor of Canterbury;
- Cllr. Jean Butcher, Lord Mayor of Canterbury.

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document	Constitution
How the charity is constituted	Unincorporated Charitable Association
Trustee selection methods	Elected by members

Additional governance issues:

- The charity operated under Memorandum of Understanding with Kent Refugee Action Network (KRAN), which allowed to use KRAN's bank account, provided bookkeeping support and safeguarding support.

- Restructuring of the charity into a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) started in March 2023 and resulted in registration of the CIO Canterbury for Ukraine by Charity Commission in September 2023.
- The following policies and procedures were adopted during 2023:
 - Expense & revenue tracking procedure
 - Safeguarding Policy

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

1. To provide relief from social and economic poverty to Ukrainian persons displaced as a result of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, which started in 2014 and intensified on 24 February 2022 ('Displaced Persons') and to help alleviate poverty among Displaced Persons in the UK and Ukraine.
2. To support educational and social needs of the Displaced Persons.
3. To facilitate community development which involves supporting the community of the Displaced Persons, their hosts and other community members involved with them.
4. To preserve and develop Ukrainian culture and promote opportunities for cultural exchange within the local community.

The above objects are achieved by the following activities:

Communication:

- Canterbury for Ukraine **Face Book group** (Objective 3) with more than 2200 active members (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/canterbury.for.ukraine>) is an information sharing platform for the local community. C4U volunteers provide administration to the group under the leadership by Oksana Styles;
- **Web site** www.Canterbutr4Ukraine.org (Objective 3) is used to share information about the C4U activities and was updated on a regularly by Maryna Samokysh, C4U Communication Officer;

Individual support:

- **'Welcome Hub'** - a one-stop **information and contact service** for Ukrainians and host families (Objective 1). It provides weekly drop-in and thematic information workshops.
Partners: Kent Together, Diocese of Canterbury and Canterbury Umbrella Centre.
Results in 2023: 39 sessions were organised attended by on average 8 people. Main Areas of Support: Housing, Employment, Universal Credit claims, Utility Bills, Foodbank, Laptops, Small grants applications, issues with hosts, finding of new hosts. The topics of the workshops included: Employment (by DWP), School Education (by KCC), Self-Employment (by DWP), Universal Credit (by DWP and Professor Peter Taylor Gooby, University of Kent), Modern Slavery (by The Clewer Initiative & DoC), Hate Crime/Community Safety (by Kent Police), NHS outreach (by Northgate Medical Practice). The Hub was implemented by a team of 2-3 support officers and representatives of the Canterbury City Council, DWP under leadership of Domenica Pecoraro;



Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

- **Home for Ukraine visa application support** for local sponsors and Ukrainian refugees (Objective 1) at all stages including matching support. Demand for this support decreased in comparison to 2022 and is addressed primarily via the Welcome Hub;
- **Bespoke advice and signposting** for individuals, including translation and interpreting support, and advocacy to access welfare support and services (Objective 1). More than 100 people in the Canterbury District and East Kent have benefited in 2023;

Education and personal development:

- **English language classes** (Objectives 2, 3) - two to three English classes (6-8 hours) per week and an opportunity to take ESOL exams
Partner: Canterbury Christ Church University, KCC Adult Education
Results in 2023: About 40 weeks of classes delivered with 70-80 regular attendees. Classes split into 3-4 ability levels where learners achieved ESOL Skills for Life qualifications in Speaking & Listening, Reading, and Writing. In addition, “Work Skills and Employability” classes were held, with a focus on communication skills, applying for jobs, writing CVs etc., and included a visit from the National Careers’ Service. Classes were delivered by a team of 4-5 teachers and volunteers under leadership of Dr. Kevin Balchin.
 Additionally, a 50% fee waiver is offered by CCCU to displaced Ukrainians taking the CELTA course, which trains participants to work as English language teachers in particular settings. Two displaced Ukrainians from this course are now working for KCC at CCCU, teaching English to Ukrainians.



Beneficiary feedback from English classes:

“Our course was really helpful for us. Now I can understand more native speakers. I’ve made new English friends and feel more free to speak. Also, our lessons gave more confidence to get a job. And even to write a CV was easier after advice in our lessons.”
 (Katya L)



“The lessons were interesting. We learned a lot not only about the English language, but about the culture of Great Britain.” (Inna B)

- Bi-monthly **Young Ukrainians Hub** (YoU-Hub) (Objectives 2, 3) - is an educational and social centre for young Ukrainians in East Kent. Its goal is to encourage Ukrainian children and youth to maintain connection with their Ukrainian heritage by popularizing Ukrainian traditions, language and culture. It provides children and their parents with a safe place for social interactions within their native environment.
Partner: Simon Langton Grammar School for Girls with funding by the Kent County Department of Education

Results in 2023: 25 sessions (including 4 special events) attended on average by 38 children (age 5-17) with about 100 registered Ukrainian children – the total number of visits 943;
parents' club started in April 2023 (employability coaching, psychological support, fitness, hobbies, trainings) – 17 sessions (10 parents on average), total number of visits 171.

Special events:

- 16/09/23 - Ukrainian animated film screening “Mavka. The Forest Song” at the Vue Cinema in Ukrainian language – free for children and at a substantial discount for adults;
- 21/10/23 - a trip to London, with tours to the British Library and the British Museum;
- 11/11/23 - a virtual tour to the National Holodomor-Genocide Museum of Ukraine;
- 18/11/23 – a tour to Canterbury Cathedral, attending a stained-glass master class, supported by Quakers of Canterbury.



YoU-Hub team: 12-15 people under leadership of Lada Russova (responsible trustee - Olena Nizalova)

Parent's comments:

“The YoU-Hub provides wonderful opportunities for Ukrainian children to come together, continue learning about Ukrainian history and culture. Since joining the community in September 2022, I've witnessed positive changes in my teenage daughter's mood.

The support doesn't end with the younger members. It's truly remarkable that there are separate activities for parents: networking, sewing, sports, lectures, and psychological support, among others.

A special note of appreciation goes to the YoU-Hub team for organising the nativity and the wonderful Christmas celebration.”

Margarita Bondarenko (mother of Mariya)

- **Ukrainian as a foreign language** (Objective 4) – weekly lessons for small groups of school children and adults from local community (delivered by Lada Russova)

Partner: Simon Langton Grammar School for Girls;

Community building:

- **Community events** (Objectives 3 and 4) – 4 main community events (the War Anniversary on 24 February; Eurovision in Canterbury, May 2023; Independence Day, 24 August; Holodomor Commemoration, November 2023) and several smaller events were organised in 2023. The total number of participants for main events was between 250 and 400 people including Ukrainian families, local sponsors and supporters of



Ukraine. from Canterbury and East Kent. The primary purpose of these events was to demonstrate solidarity with Ukrainian people, to support local Ukrainian community, to celebrate Ukrainian culture and commemorate important events in Ukrainian history. The Lord Mayor of Canterbury, MPs and community leaders joined these events.

- **Young at Hearts** (Objectives 3) - a social club for older age Ukrainians. The club is organised to prevent social isolation of older age displaced Ukrainians.
Partner: Canterbury Umbrella Centre
Results in 2023: The Club was organised in May 2023 and includes about 20 members. During 2023, the Club had 53 weekly meetings including workshops (e.g. Memory disorders: causes, treatment) and tours to museums and neighbouring cities and attending public events. The club members took an active role as volunteers at the C4U public events. The Club lead is Volodymyr Nizalov.
- **Liaison with local government**, charitable organisations, and businesses on behalf of the Ukrainian community (Objectives 3) to improve access to local support and services. C4U trustees are actively involved with representation of the Ukrainian community of the Canterbury District and East Kent at various meetings, local and national events. For example, C4U representatives attend regular Network meetings of local government authorities in support of the Home for Ukraine scheme. They also represent the Ukrainian community at the Ethnic Minority in Canterbury (EMIC) meetings and meetings of the Independent Advisory Group (IAG) to Kent Police.

Cultural development:

- **Canterbury Ukrainian Ladies Choir** (Objectives 3, 4) was organised in August 2022 and targets several objectives: to provide psychological support to displaced Ukrainian women and prevent social isolation, to celebrate Ukrainian culture and share it with the local community, to fundraise for the needs of Ukrainian community in East Kent and for humanitarian needs in Ukraine. As such, the Choir offers a healing space for women through singing, helping members form friendships and support circles. The Choir has about 30 participants and operates under the leadership by Joanna Chapman and Olena Nizalova.
Results in 2023: The Choir had weekly rehearsals, had 7 concerts and contributed to the C4U public events, and fundraising efforts.



- **Ukrainian book collection and Discussion Club** (Objectives 4)
Partner: Beaney Library
Results in 2023: C4U donated about 150 books of modern Ukrainian literature and books about Ukraine which were added to the Library catalogue and made available to readers around Kent County through the library loan system. Regular sessions of the Discussion Club are organised by Lada Russova.



Help to Ukraine:

- **Books for Brave Kids** (Objectives 2) - collection of English books for schools in Ukraine was organised by Tamila Senko, Lada Russova and Hanna Hrekova. There were 21 boxes with books collected and delivered to 6 schools and one shelter “Misto Dobra”.

- **Fundraising and donation for humanitarian projects in Ukraine** (Objectives 1)

Partner: Ukraine Charity, London

Results in 2023: a fundraising concert was organised in Canterbury by Anastasiya Nizalova and C4U Ladies Choir in February, 2023.



£1,426 was raised and donated to “Misto Dobra” (City of Kindness), which provides shelter to displaced mothers and children, three orphanages from the Southern Ukraine and victims of domestic abuse. The donation was used to build a playground for young children from the internally displaced families staying at the shelter. A second fundraising event “Borscht Party” was organised under the leadership by Olena Nizalova and active contribution by C4U trustees and student volunteers from the University of Kent about £1,000 was raised for the projects in Ukraine, which will be implemented in 2024.

Canterbury Stands with Ukraine and Ukrainian People!



Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The year of 2023 was a transformative year for Canterbury for Ukraine. While C4U started as an emergency response community group managed by a small group of local volunteers, in 2023 it became an organisation with hired administrative and communication support, systematic fundraising activities and well-established set of activities. We have managed to stay relevant to the needs of our local community of displaced Ukrainian people and deliver high quality services and activities as described above.

C4U and people collaborating closely with our organisation received recognition at the local and national levels:

- July, 2023 – C4U was recognised as the Community and Outreach Project of the year by the Canterbury Christ Church University Business and Community Impact Award;
- November, 2023 – Canterbury City Council Homes for Ukraine Team won the annual award for outstanding collaboration with the community;
- November, 2023 – Cllr. Connie Nolan, Trustee of C4U, became a winner of the national Local Government Information Unit (LGIU) award for resilience for her work with the Ukrainian community.



C4U was able to mobilise core and project specific funds from the following sources:

- C4U Fundraising Dinner;
- Refugee Council;
- Kent Department of Education;
- Kent Canterbury Community Foundation/ Masonic Charitable Foundation;
- Canterbury City Council;
- donations during the Choir concerts and community events;
- donations by parents of the YoU-Hub children;
- donations by people of Canterbury.

The funding allowed contracting of the Link Officer (Welcome Hub), Administrative and Communication officers to strengthen C4U administration.

Trustees and Members of C4U are thankful to our supporters for their generous funding and trust in our organisation!



**Kent County
Department
of Education**



During this year, C4U took further steps for its institutional development and started the process of reorganisation into the Charitable Incorporated Organisation which was registered by the Charity Commission on 15 September of 2023 (Reg. №1204746).

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves	Reserve policy was not formulated
Details of any funds materially in deficit	No deficit was recorded
Revenue and expenditure	Total revenue: £86,078.30 Total expenditure: £37,808.19 Surplus: £48,270.11 Of that: - committed to the project costs in 2024: £32,377.00 - Unrestricted: £15,893.11 For details please see C4U Accounts, 2023

Section F Other optional information

- Public liability insurance was maintained for all C4U activities;
- C4U contracted 15 self-employed service providers all from the Ukrainian community to support implementation of projects (primarily the YoU-Hub);
- About 20 volunteers were involved besides the trustees (primarily for organisation of events);
- All volunteers and service providers involved with children and vulnerable groups received safeguarding and induction training and went through the Enhanced DBS check.
- C4U had 24 members (including 11 trustees) of them 8 are Ukrainians.

Section G Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)



Full name(s) Denys Nizalov

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc) Chair

Date 1 May, 2024