



The Destitution Project (DP)

Registered Charity # 1194734

Seeking to provide a safe environment where Bolton's asylum seekers and refugees, including those who become destitute, can get practical help and information and enjoy a social space and activities each week

WELCOME TO OUR **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

FOR APR 2022 – MAR 2023



1. Welcome & Housekeeping

2. Apologies for Absence



Keith Talbot, Gay & Keith Talbot Trust	Martine Royal, Bolton Library ESOL
Fiona Adams, Mary Kinross Charity Trust	Peggy Arnell
Elaine Butt Bolton CVS	Mary Cropper
Helen Bolton, DP Safeguarding Advisor	Janet Lythgoe DP team
Victor Williams	Yasmin Quereshi, MP
Andrew Haines, Charles Plater Trust	Gareth Hatton, Serco Manager
Diane Hawkins, Deputy Lieutenant GM	Sr Christine Alderson
William Nonge, British Red Cross	Suliman Ahmed, ex DP volunteer
Graham Russell, Cranfield Trust	Vicky Hutchison, Moffatts
Julia Savage, Asylum Matters	Denis Madden – helped with DP newsletters
Geoff Webster	Faith Tavengwa - BHA



3. Errors and Omissions/Matters arising - Minutes of the last AGM – May 23rd, 2022

A Bit of Background:

DP's 2 main modes of operation:

- ✓ A **Drop-in** every Wednesday (10.00am - 3.00pm) at the Victoria Hall
- ✓ **Casework Services** - including for refused asylum seekers and those who have no recourse to public funds or become destitute.

All we do is free of charge!

OUR TEAM

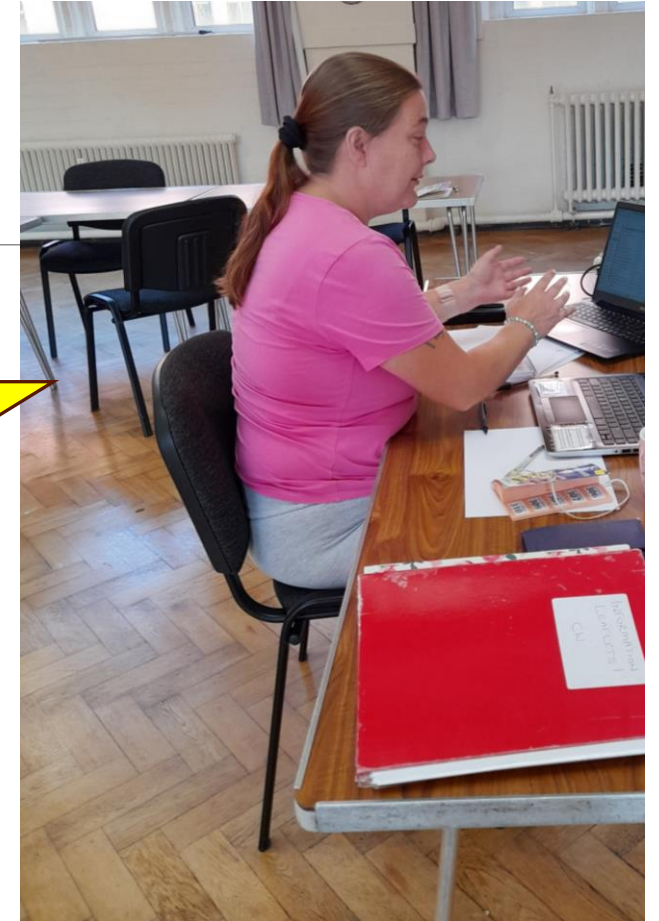


**Our Wonderful
Employees &
Volunteers**

Casework team



**Senior Caseworker
Shaheda Mangerah**



**Casework Admin Assistant
Fiona Lomax**

Drop In Coordinator

**Drop In
Coordinator
Paul Barnes, held
the role to Feb
2023**



Our Volunteers

Thank
You!

**An average of 19
volunteers worked
each Drop In session
giving over 4350
hours to DP during
the year**



4. Reports for 2022-23 Financial Year:

- a. Trustees Report
- b. Senior Caseworker
- c. Note the Closing Report of Drop-In Coordinator Paul Barnes

Key Achievements & Performance Apr 2022 – Mar 2023



Trustee Report

Service User Attendance at the DP Drop-in

- ❑ 2703 attendances by asylum seekers and refugees
- ❑ Average of 54 attending each Wednesday
- ❑ 69% increase compared to 2021-22
- ❑ Building back from Covid pandemic levels

Our Food Provision: food parcels; hot meals

- ❑ fewer food donations this year – sometimes the storage shelves are empty and we have to buy more and more
- ❑ But ... a **BIG THANKS** to loyal supporters:
 - St John's Bromley Cross
 - Mount St Joseph
 - Ladybridge High School
 - St Michael's Primary
 - Many individual, churches & other supportersfor their food donations!

DP has a busy **FOOD ROOM**

We now give food parcels to any asylum seeker who wants one – not just the destitute!
1777 food parcels given out!

...where a team hands out food parcels. We have a storeroom for non-perishable food donations.





**Donation coming in from
St Michael's Primary School**



**Team sorting out a large donation from
Mount St Joseph's School**

Greeting Card for DP!

Students of
St Michael's Primary
School also designed
a lovely greeting card
for DP



Hot, vegetarian meal thanks to Bolton Mutual Aid!



**A nutritious,
vegetarian meal
that meets halal
requirements**

**It's prepared each Wednesday
by Bolton Mutual Aid using
the recently renovated
kitchen in the Wesley Suite**

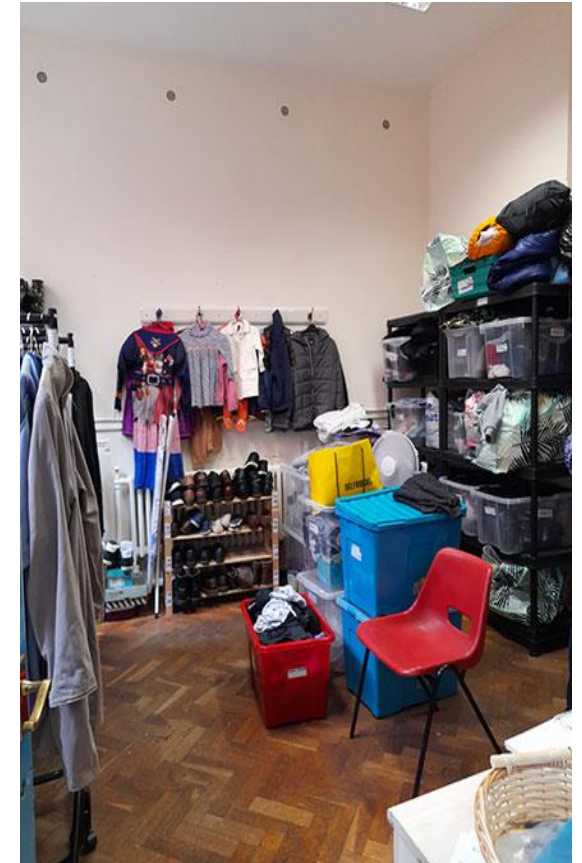


**Thank
You!**

Our Clothes Provision

- ❑ A very well organised **Display Room**
- ❑ A separate **Stock and Sorting Room**
- ❑ Well stocked **Table and Rails** in the main hall
- ❑ Most items donated by many, many individuals, churches and organisations

Our Clothes Team give out pre-loved and new clothing and bedding to our service users and their families



Our English Provision

- ❑ **Demand** for English classes is high
- ❑ **Class sizes limited** by space available (small size of our teaching room)
- ❑ Our teachers hold **four 1-hour classes each Wednesday.**
- ❑ **Organisations** like BHA (HIV guidance), Octagon Theatre and Bolton Libraries & Museum visit classes to explain/promote their services/activities

Classes take place each Wednesday for men and women



Getting out and about in Bolton!

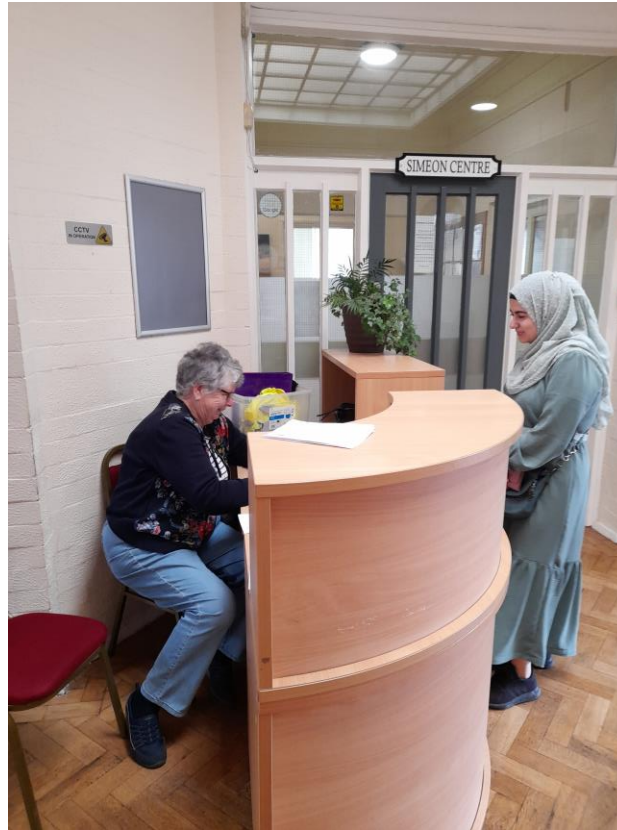


Visit to the Bolton Library and Museum



Day out at Smithills Hall

Main Drop-in Reception



**Asylum Seekers &
Refugees**

WELCOME

TO OUR DROP-IN

Wednesdays
10am-3pm

THE DESTITUTION PROJECT (DP) IS A REGISTERED CHARITY

Main Hall – the busy hub of the Drop In

Space for:

- tea and coffee
- hot meal
- social space
- games – table tennis, snooker
- Our wonderful barber Arshad!
- art table
- BHA - advice and HIV testing monthly



Arshad at work – always in high demand!



Fun and Games



Tea & Coffee



The Art Table is a popular space



Special events held in the Main Hall

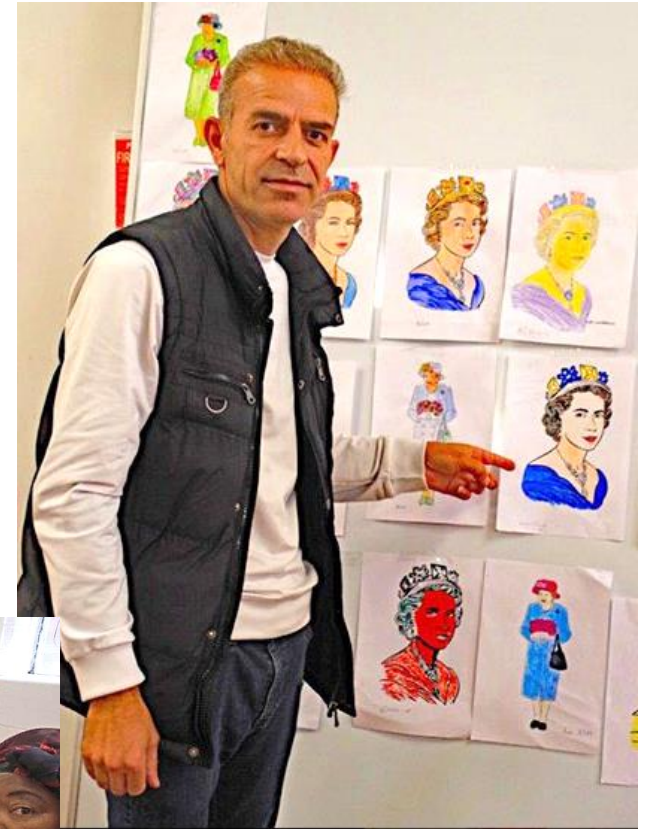


**Refugee Week
June 2022**





Remembering Her Majesty



Paul Martin retires as DP Chair



Representing DP & Advocating for Asylum Seekers & Refugees



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**Team Members
attend the
Bolton Town
Hall event to
welcome
King Charles II
and Queen
Camilla**



Information & Publicity

www.boltondp.org
DP's Website:

Destitution Project Impact Report Jan - March 2023	
Food Support: parcels Destitute Asylum Seekers (DAS) incl unregistered DAS: 17 Asylum Seekers: 541	Emergency funding: medical, essential travel, accommodation, cash support £104.35
Casework sessions Face to face: 30 Remote: 160 Other queries: 56 New Service Users registered: 1 Files closed: 0	Drop in Attendance Total: 812 Average: 62
Agencies that Destitution Project (DP) has connected with Greater Manchester Homelessness Action Network; NACCOM, Refugee Action; Cranfield Trust; Ongoing: Probation officers, mental health support workers, Serco housing; NACCOM, Migrant Help, Home Office, local solicitors and Red Cross	

Quarterly
Impact Reports





Dignity and hope for
asylum seekers and refugees



The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service

Registered Charity No 1194734

Spring/Summer 2023 Newsletter

Welcome to our Spring/Summer 2023 Newsletter and greetings to our valued Supporters and our Team of Staff and Volunteers and to our Service Users. We hope that you have been able to enjoy the fine weather we have had this Spring & Summer.

Our Mission
Through our Volunteers and three part-time Staff, the Destitution Project ('DP') aims to continue to provide a safe environment for Asylum Seekers and Refugees where they will be treated with dignity and can find hope, friendship, food and practical help.

Farewell to our Chair of Trustees
Ever since DP took its first step in 2014, towards

and Kath presented Paul with a 'DP archive' album filled with photos, both funny and poignant. Then three of our talented artists, Ian, Irina and Diana gave Paul memorable pieces they had painted especially for him - from Ian, the symbolic image of a lighthouse, painted on slate and from Irina and Diana, two beautiful watercolour landscapes.

Then our Volunteer barber Arshad presented Paul with a card signed by our Staff and Volunteers. Finally, Elsie, our Volunteer teacher, led our English classes in performing a specially written 'Farewell Song' to the tune of 'Happy Birthday'. We finished the presentations with a resounding 'Hip-hip hurray'.

Paul's sense of humour and light touch will be missed

Newsletters
twice a year

DP gets a T-shirt!



Organisational Strategic Review



- ❑ **Cranfield Trust** helping DP do a strategic review to:
 - identify and respond to **key risks and opportunities**
 - better **support Service Users and our Team**
 - become more **operationally & financially sustainable**
- ❑ **DP reaching out to other organisations** to see how they work and how they are responding to current challenges – Rainbow Haven and Swap in GM visited so far
- ❑ Aim to finish **action plan** in coming months and then start **implementing**: operations, capacity, fund raising etc

Casework Services Through the Year

Apr 2022 –
Mar 2023



Report by
Senior Caseworker
Shaheda Mangerah

Demand for casework support is high

- ❑ **Home Office** clearing backlog from pandemic
- ❑ **Many new Asylum Seekers** continued to arrive in Bolton
- ❑ **Translation & Interpretation funding** a huge help!
- ❑ **BIG THANKS** to our funders and all the organisations we are able to get assistance from and signpost our service users to

Casework Support provided: Apr 2022/Mar 2023

Remote Casework Sessions	Casework Appointment Sessions	Walk - Ins	Supermarket Vouchers £	Cash Support £	Number of Food Parcels	New Service Users Registered
619	143	192	2050	313	1777	7

Case Files Closed	Total Active Case Files	Destitute Asylum Seekers
20	176	220

285 service users registered for Casework support since DP became a registered charity in 2015

	COUNTRY	REMOTE WORKING	FACE 2 FACE (Appts & Walk in)	TOTAL		COUNTRY	REMOTE WORKING	FACE 2 FACE (Appts & Walk in)	TOTAL
1	Iraq	186	65	250	20	Russia	8	1	9
2	Iran	82	40	121	21	Angola	6	0	6
3	Afghanistan	73	41	114	22	Gambia	0	3	3
4	Sudan	48	28	76	23	Libya	0	3	3
5	Syria	39	25	64	24	Botswana	1	1	2
6	Pakistan	36	27	63	25	Tunisia	1	1	2
7	Nigeria	48	10	58	26	Kenya	0	2	2
8	Palestine	46	2	48	27	India	1	0	1
9	Algeria	32	9	40	28	Oman	1	0	1
10	Albania	22	12	34	29	Chad	0	1	1
11	Eritrea	10	16	26	30	Egypt	0	1	1
12	Mauritania	11	13	24	31	Guinea	0	1	1
13	Ethiopia	15	9	24	32	Jordan	0	1	1
14	Kuwait	12	11	23	33	Mali	0	1	1
15	Congo	11	6	18	34	Namibia	0	1	1
16	Somalia	10	8	17	35	S Korea	0	1	1
17	Sri Lanka	10	2	12	36	Ukraine	0	1	1
18	El Salvador	10	1	11	37	Yemen	0	1	1
19	S Sudan	8	2	10	38	Zambia	0	1	1

Casework Sessions held

619 remote

335 face-2-face

954 in total

38 countries

Paul Barnes time
at DP as Drop-in
Coordinator
Sep 2019 –
Feb 2023



Note the Closing Report of
Drop-In Coordinator Paul
Barnes



Money Matters



5. Financial reports:

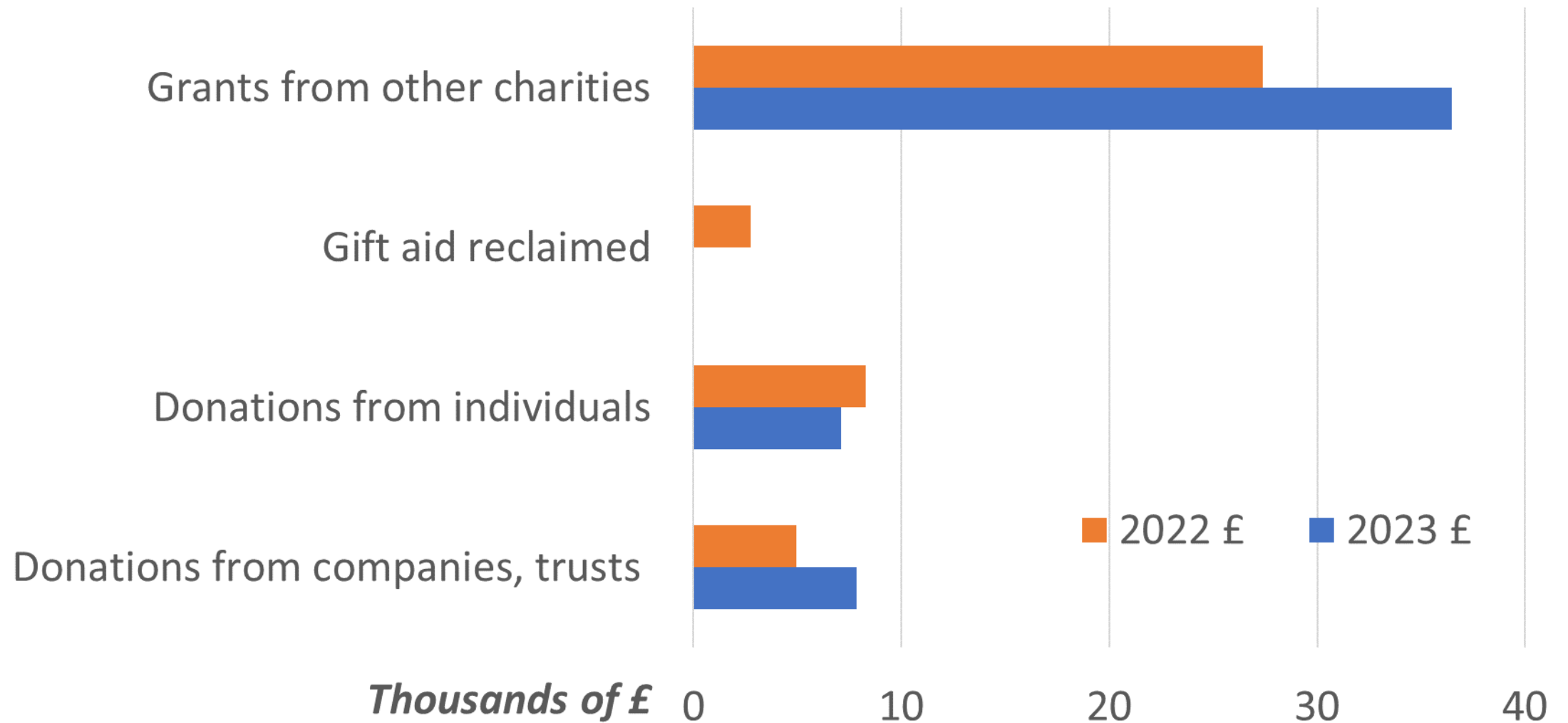
- a. Finance Officer – summary income and expenditure
- b. Moffatts Chartered Accountants – Statement of Accounts for Apr 2022 – Mar 2023



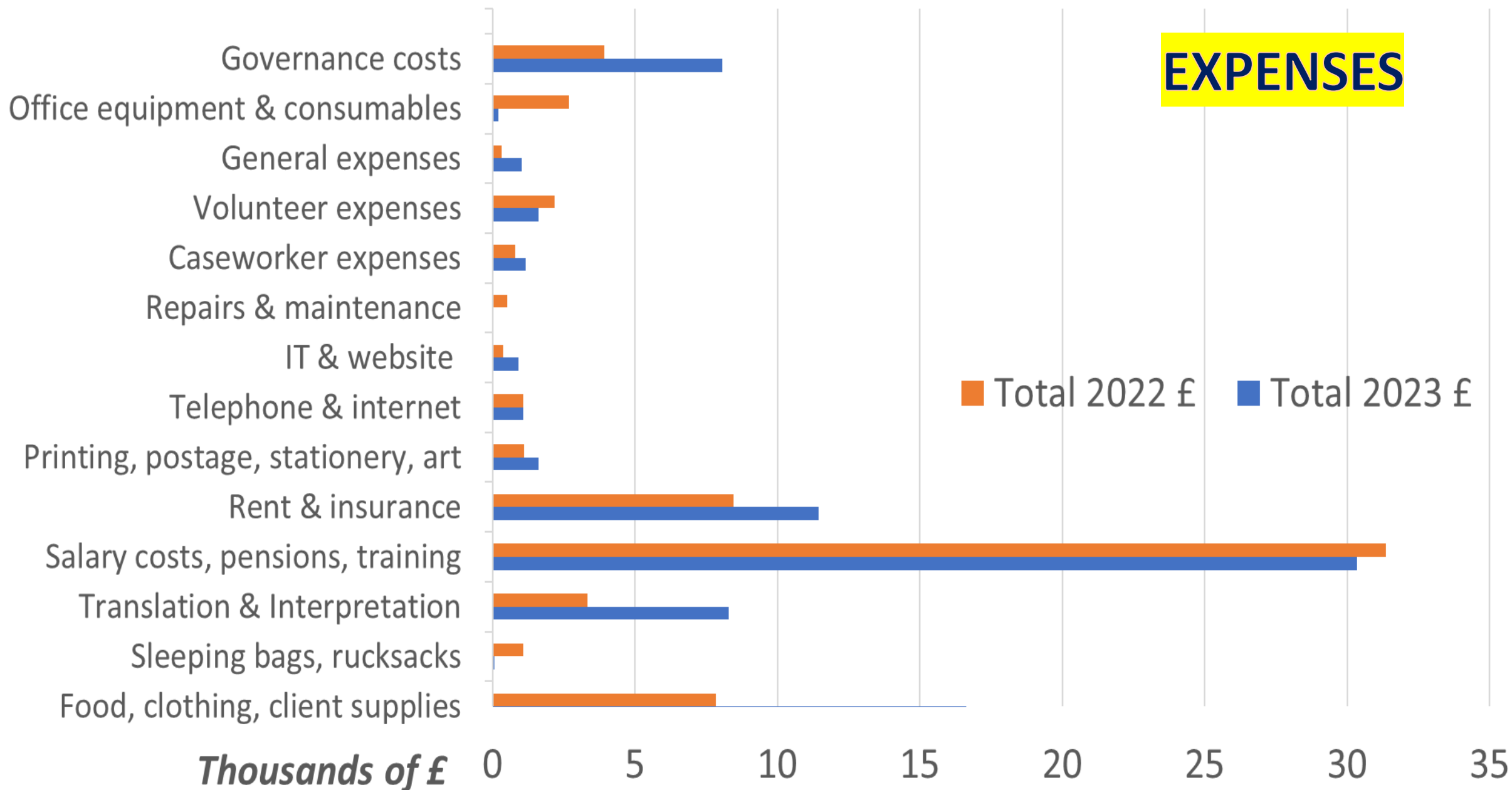
Summary by DP Finance Officer, Michael Isherwood

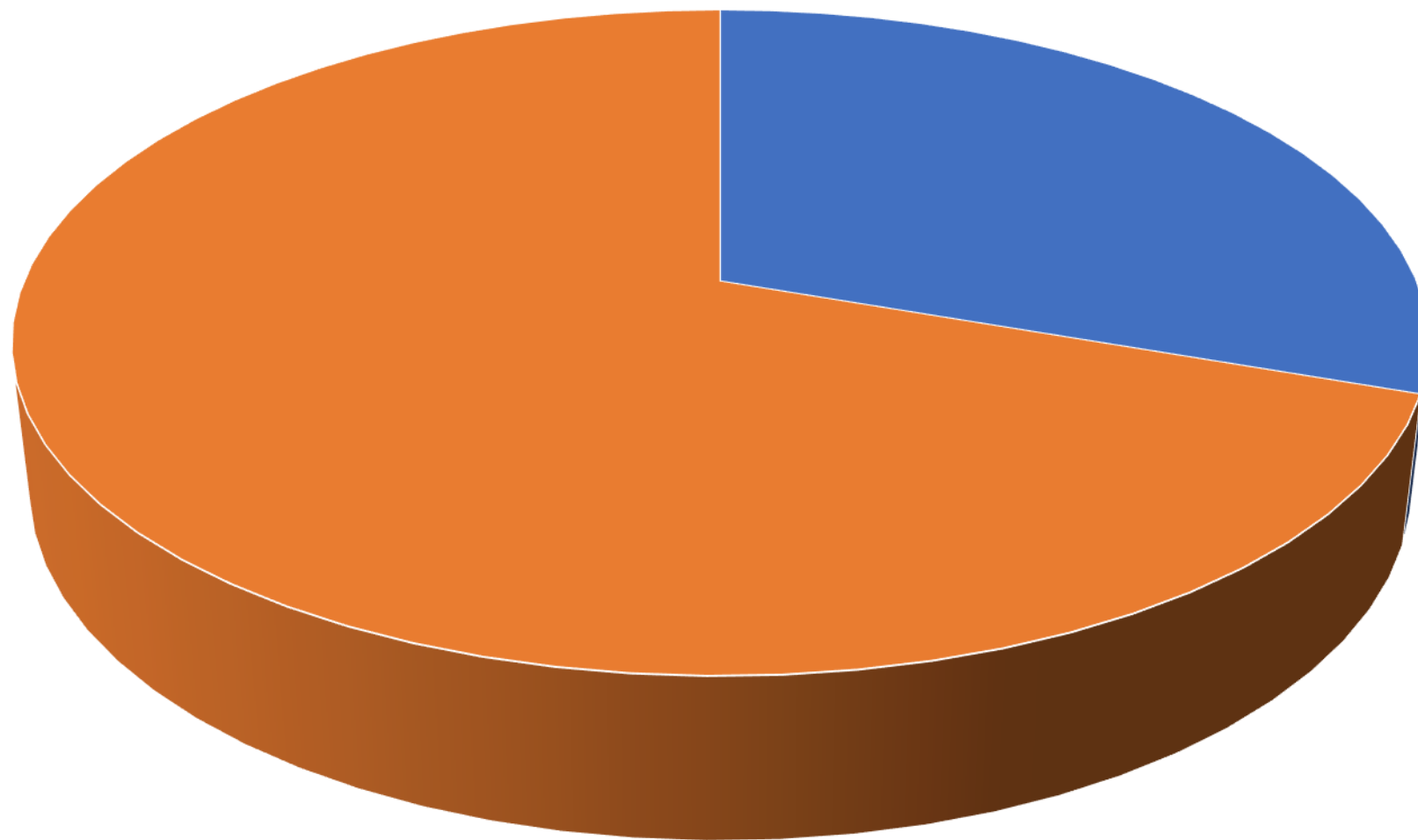
- ❑ **2022/23 Income: £51,977** (2021/22: £43,393)
- ❑ **2022/23 Expenditure: £82,778** (2021/22: £65,102)
- ❑ We have now used up any surplus funding from 2019/20 and 2020/21 financial years (covid emergency funds etc)
- ❑ Our funding comes from **Grants & Individual donations**
- ❑ **BIG THANKS** to all our funders!

INCOME



EXPENSES





■ Unrestricted £ ■ Restricted £

Financial Statements ending 31 Mar 2023

Moffatts Chartered Accountants

- ☐ **Financial Statements for Year ending 31 March 2023:**
were emailed/posted out previously
- ☐ **Summary report by Vicky Hutchinson of Moffatts:**
please refer to summary sheet handed out here
- ☐ Any comments or questions?



Performances



Appointment of Charity Trustees



7. Appointment of Charity Trustees -
- a) Standing trustees - term continues for another year for: David Tomlinson, Sarah George, Bernard Pele, Mags Simpson
 - b) Newly appointed trustees – Ahmed Mohamed & Dave Batchelor
 - c) Retiring trustee – Paul Martin



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8. Q&A/Open Floor
 9. Any Other Business
 10. Closing



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Registered Charity # 1194734

Thank You
for Attending

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

APR 2022 – MAR 2023