

Empowering Refugees To Overcome Exclusion

IMPACT REPORT 2021/22

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Asylum seekers and refugees come to our region seeking a better life. Many have suffered deeply and then have difficulty with language, accommodation and making meaningful connections. Action Foundation helps with all these issues and more. Above all it treats our fellow human beings as valuable people made and loved by God. I am proud to be Patron of Action Foundation and thankful for the difference their work makes.

The Rt Revd Paul Butler, Bishop of Durham

www.actionfoundation.org.uk

WHAT WE DO

Action Foundation supports and empowers people seeking asylum, refugees and migrants in the North East to overcome immediate barriers, integrate with the community, and build skills for the future. We do this through our five core projects:



THE YEAR IN NUMBERS



INTRODUCTION

by Duncan McAuley, CEO

'The need has never been greater' is a phrase that I'm frequently reminded of as I reflect on the year and look forward to what's ahead. With the passing of the Nationality and Borders Bill we are seeing a marked increase in the volume of legislation targeting our clients and although the fight to challenge these policies goes on, the national picture looks to worsen over the coming years.

But it is not all doom and gloom! This year has been full of successes and positive change, both for us and for the people we serve. We celebrate each time someone we're working with is granted status, gains a job, graduates to another level of language learning or is even reunited with their family. These stories are often untold in the public sphere but are a continual reminder to us of why we exist and the difference we are making in the lives of those we serve. At the beginning of 2022 we completed a review of our Identify, updating our Purpose and Values statements and refreshing our focus ahead of completing a new five-year strategic plan. It was both hugely rewarding and humbling to sit with our clients and volunteers listening to what they thought about Action Foundation and hearing firsthand about their lives and their perspective on the challenges they face.

As you read the following pages and hear the voices of those we serve I hope you too are inspired and challenged by their words. On behalf of all of us here, may I offer my heartfelt thanks for your support and contribution to our work, we simply could not make the impact we do without you. Best wishes

D.M. Lulen Duncar

The need has never been greater.

ACTON

Providing opportunities to overcome exclusion



A LETTER FROM OUR CHAIR

by David Lyall

It's a privilege of my role to get to know some of the remarkable people who have risked their lives to find safety here in the North East of England. Whilst there are various cultural differences between us. I am always much more aware of our fundamental similarities. The same human desires for home, community, job, a place of safety, enough food on the table and to turn the heating on without worry. The unquenchable dreams for a fairer world and the opportunity to contribute to it, and a rich spirituality that values human beings as more than simply chemicals and biological processes, and searches for ultimate meaning amidst the pain and chaos of life. I am very grateful to live at a time when our part of the UK is gaining so many remarkable people from different nations.

I must also reflect on how tough things are at present. We've never known such demand for our services, such a high level of anguish and yet such a funding challenge. And thus more than ever, we appreciate



you, our committed friends and partners; our fellow organisations in the asylum sector; our volunteers, our generous financial partners, and all of you who pray so faithfully for our work.

High quality service provision will always be our bedrock. There is something hugely dignifying about having a roof over one's head, gaining the skills to speak the local language, finding community, and being empowered to access information and services, thus our Accommodation Services, Action Language, Digital Inclusion and InterAction Projects have rightly continued to receive significant focus and tremendous dedication from our wonderful team of staff and volunteers.

In addition, we have embarked on a full strategic review and I've been delighted to see the high quality of input from staff, volunteers, clients and trustees - and the many animated conversations as we wrestle with our future focus and reflect on our purpose and values.

Having lost some wonderful trustees in recent times, we are delighted to be welcoming Gaby Mandell and Rola Naeb to the Action Foundation Board. Between them they bring tremendous experience of strategy, culture, language, migration and the asylum system, and are already having a significant impact on the leadership of the organisation. The staff team has also been hugely strengthened as we have welcomed Pauline Holt, Chris Buglass, Emily Malcolm, Joanne Reidy, Fouad Qamar and Raphaela Berding, each one bringing new insights, skills and passion to Action Foundation. We were also sad to say goodbye to Julian Prior, Andrew Wisbach, Lizzie Walsh, Katie Bryson and Celia Bouch, each of whom leaves with our sincere thanks and best wishes.

Finally, I would encourage all of you to read this fantastic report carefully, and to join us in celebrating the good of the past year, for which I am profoundly grateful to God and to you all.

David

interaction

Our weekly InterAction Drop-ins and outreach work are a lifeline for asylum seekers and refugees who come to us with a wide range of issues.

As Covid restrictions have eased we've seen a return of large numbers to our Newcastle Drop-in where clients can access free advice on everything from housing to health and immigration. They can also get a haircut, socialise and enjoy a bite to eat.

Early in 2022 we expanded the InterAction project to South Tyneside and have been working with others

to develop the support offered to people seeking asylum in that area. This exciting venture was made possible by South Tyneside Clinical Commissioning Group and focuses on health engagement, connecting people with local NHS and other voluntary services.

Over the year our team has also worked closely with other charities and organisations to support people living in Newcastle's initial accommodation hotels, providing vital support for newly arrived asylum seekers.

In 2021/22:

977 people attended

381 registered as regular attendees

777 volunteers helped run InterAction

87% of volunteers were asylum seekers or refugees

We asked people why they come to InterAction drop-in:





services

LILI'S STORY

'I feel like I'm in my safe place.' - Lili

Imagine arriving in a new country, thousands of miles away, just as a global pandemic hits. This was Lili's situation when she fled El Salvador, aged just 19, because of threats to herself and her family from gangs.

She found Action Foundation after arriving with her father and elder sister just days before the first Covid lockdown. We arranged food parcels during the pandemic and access to free online English lessons. When InterAction Drop-in reopened she came along and her mental health began to improve.

"I don't know when my depression disappeared but every week I came here and I tried to learn new things and that was really helpful for me because I forget every bad thing and I start to look at good things," said Lili.

She began volunteering at InterAction serving refreshments and gaining qualifications in Food Safety and Safeguarding in the process. In December 2021 Lili and her family were granted leave to remain and InterAction staff helped Lili navigate the changes that come with refugee status.

"Yvonne (InterAction Project Manager) and Fouad (Project Officer) help me with appointments for Universal Credit and with the Consulate and I receive exactly the help I need as well as help setting up a bank account and everything."

Lili added: "I feel like I am in my safe place, where I can go to anyone and say, 'Can you help me please?' Because I think that the people here are really professional. They are absolutely friendly. I know this is where I grow. I feel more confident. The staff and volunteers are like my family."

KASRA' STORY

'I like to use my abilities to help' - Kasra

Kasra Mirzaei, 26, was an industrial engineer in Iran before he left due to the political situation. His first six months in the UK saw him move between four different cities – from Birmingham to Glasgow, from Glasgow to Newcastle, from Newcastle to Aberdeen and then back to Newcastle again. Most recently he has been in 'temporary' hotel accommodation, but it's an hour and a half's walk from the city centre.

Kasra comes to InterAction Drop-in every week where he interprets for Farsi speakers and helps staff run the busy sessions. He enjoys music, drama and art. Kasra plays the kamancheh, a Persian stringed instrument and is a member of Curious Monkey, the North East's first theatre company of Sanctuary. In early 2022, InterAction worked with Northern Print Studio who arranged for Kasra and several other volunteers to learn printing techniques. Their work featured in an exhibition at Baltic, Gateshead.

Kasra said: "We all have difficult situations and sometimes we need help, that's why I like to use my abilities to help people and help as a volunteer. Action Foundation is a very friendly and good environment for me and people who need help and it makes me proud to work with the InterAction team."

In-person English classes resumed in September, although social distancing remained in place. Our qualified volunteer teachers provided lessons in four different venues across Newcastle and Sunderland. We also continued our online Zoom classes, introduced during the pandemic, as learners with young children or who struggle to travel, like the flexibility of online learning.

This year saw the launch of classes in two community libraries as part of the ESOL for Integration Fund delivered with Newcastle City Council and partnering with N.E.S.T.

Thanks to North of Tyne Combined Authority funding we were able to further develop our work with other ESOL providers to ensure learners can more easily access the right course for their level of English and progress to accredited courses as soon as they are ready. We held our first joint enrolment sessions for job seeking learners and new arrivals from Ukraine with colleges and community providers and hope to build on this work in the future.

Unfortunately the funding landscape for nonstatutory ESOL provision is becoming more and more difficult and we anticipate a challenging year ahead for our Action Language project which will need to adapt or reduce in capacity through the next academic year.

This is sad because our clients gain so much more from classes than just learning English. Lessons create an environment for socialisation, advice, referrals and signposting, enriching the lives of refugees and asylum seekers in many different ways.

799 students attended a mix of online and in-person classes from September 2021-July 2022

1,418 total classes delivered by Action Language volunteer teachers and classroom assistants

Top 8 nationalities

Iranian, Iraqi, Eritrean, Sudanese, Afghan, Syrian, Ukrainian, Salvadoran 658 students attended online Zoom classes

648 Zoom classes delivered

130 of the in-person classes were taught in local libraries 605 attended in-person classes in Newcastle and Sunderland

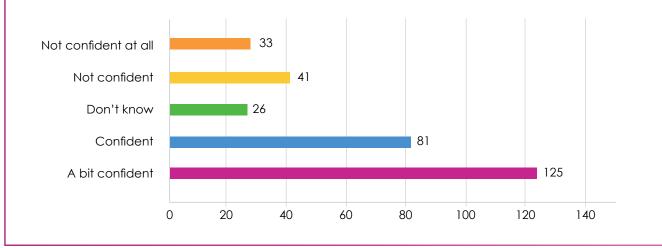
770 face-to-face classes delivered

123 volunteer teachers and classroom assistants



HOW CONFIDENT DO YOU FEEL TALKING TO PEOPLE WHO DON'T SPEAK YOUR LANGUAGE?

Of 306 learners at Pre-entry to Entry 2 level English surveyed, 67% said they now felt confident in speaking to people who don't speak their language.



SEGID'S STORY

Segid, from Eritrea, came to the UK in September 2020 and arrived in Sunderland a year later where he registered with Action Language. His journey from Eritrea began seven years ago – he travelled here via Sudan, Libya, Italy, Suez and France. He describes his experiences in Calais as having 'no humanity' and he has health issues as a result of his treatment and journey.

Segid was unable to read and write when he first joined Action Language but can now do both and communicate more confidently in his face-to-face classes and on Zoom. He struggles with his mental wellbeing as his family are scattered across different countries – his daughter in France, his son in Canada and his wife and mother in Eritrea. However, he enjoys coming to lessons and studying at home, which keeps his mind focused. At Action Language he feels people know him, welcome him and help him.

In Segid's words: "Good to learn and learn at home... good to go on bus... can ask for help... speak to doctor now... good for me, I understand you now. My Action Language very good and very well. I have teachers and I want to use my communication more outside."



ATHAB'S STORY

'When you go to a new place and don't speak the language, you have big problem' - Athab

"Athab is a refugee who was just ten when his home country, Iraq, was invaded and plunged into instability that still lasts to this day. Two years ago he fled wartorn Fallujah to seek sanctuary here.

He attended our free community English language class at Newcastle's West End Library.

Athab and his partner Aziza have a baby daughter, 10-month-old, Mila, and he is keen to have a good enough standard of English to get a job and support his family.

Athab said: "When I came in UK, I don't have any word in English, I don't know how to say my name! I didn't finish my high school. In my country from 2003 we had problem so our school not teach properly. I not study properly there.

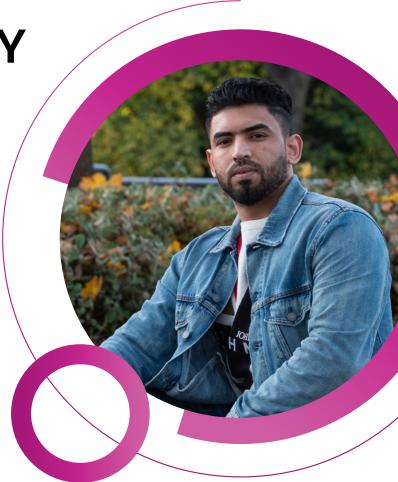
"When I came here it's hard for me because when you go to a new place and you don't speak the language you have big problem.

"I have problem to go shopping because I don't speak English. I can't make appointment with doctor." Action Language classes made him 'more comfortable about my English' he said.

"It is easy to learn with you as well. It make me happy and I appreciate this because Action Foundation help me with this and everyone here is very friendly to me. I also learn about English culture and history." Athab has grown so confident in his English that he has signed up for a library card and is looking forward to being able to borrow children's books to read to his daughter.

Nicola Brooks, Project Manager for Action Language, said: "Our learners are fantastic and show us every day how keen they are to study, whether that's by travelling into classes by bus or metro, or attending Zoom lessons whilst looking after small children.

Learning English is so important to them, and we're so grateful to those who help to make it happen by donating time and money to support the language classes."



VOLUNTEERING WITH ACTION LANGUAGE

Libby Selman has been an ESOL teacher with us since 2008 and has taught hundreds of Action Language learners in that time. She said: "I've been lucky enough to be involved over a long period and have seen this absolutely essential charity grow and serve so many people.

"Teaching is sociable and constructive; crossing the town so often involves warm bursts of greetings when we bump into current and former students. I'm a beneficiary of Action Foundation as much as any migrant is. All volunteers are. After a while, your mind is full of other people – their faces, voices, needs and stories. And, happily for older volunteers, you can still be useful."

Like to know more about becoming a volunteer? Head to...

https://actionfoundation.org.uk/ get-involved/volunteer/





Action Letting provides supported accommodation to newly granted refugees at risk of homelessness. As well as a room in a shared house, we provide regular sessions with support workers who help prepare tenants for independent living in the community. Support is tailored to individual need, empowering people to make lasting change. This might cover budgeting, health, social engagement and employment but in 2021/22 we also helped two clients through the family reunion process. We have also made improvements to our 15 properties following the slowdown in activity during Covid-19 which enabled us to visit each home and make repairs and updates which might otherwise have been missed. Providing quality accommodation is a really important element of what we do and our work over this period will ensure our high standards can be maintained for years to come.

94 clients supported **46** clients moved into independent living

WELCOM

988 Iface-to-face sessions with support workers

"66

First of all I say Alhamdulillah. Before coming (to the UK) my wife and I were worried and stressing. Now I am very happy and I live a happy life. Really, I don't have the words for Action Foundation for helping me, but I say, 'Thank you'

25-year-old Eritrean man reunited with his wife through family reunion after more than two years.

DAMEE'S STORY

Gaining refugee status after years of seeking asylum brings conflicting emotions – yes, it's a cause for celebration but there is often anxiety about finding somewhere to live and supporting yourself. It can be a bewildering and frightening time as newly recognised refugees lose their asylum support from the Home Office and are given only 28 days to secure housing and income.

This is where our Action Lettings project helps. Damee, a young adult from Ethiopia, gained refugee status in November 2020 and had to move out of his paid-for accommodation. With just a month to find somewhere to live, he approached Action Foundation and we found him a room in a comfortable shared house.

Damee said: "When I first moved in I had the smallest room, but as people have moved on, I now have a much bigger room with an en-suite bathroom. It is very nice and close to my college."

Damee and his three housemates take pride in keeping their three-storey townhouse clean and tidy and have even set up a home gym in their shared upstairs lounge to keep fit. Damee plays football with friends on a local pitch.

Sarah, Damee's support worker, helps with any additional support he needs.

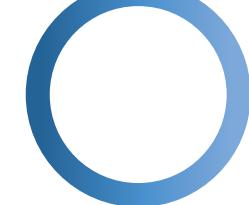
For example, she fought to get Damee registered with a local health practice that initially turned down his application to register. She has also assisted him with Universal Credit; getting into college to learn English, getting a tablet from our Digital Inclusion Project to learn English over Zoom in our Action Language classes and he has signed up for a fork lift driving course through the Jobcentre.

"Sarah's the best," Damee said. "She helped me with everything and is now helping me find a place of my own."

Sarah said: "It's great to see a sense of community in the shared house, with people living together, socialising and supporting each other. Damee is incredibly motivated and proactive in integrating into the UK, and through our charity he has developed the knowledge, support network and skills needed for independence."







actio OUSING

Through Action Housing we support some of the most vulnerable people in our society, by providing accommodation and support to destitute asylum seekers and migrants. Most of our clients have been refused asylum and Action Housing gives them the opportunity to re-engage with the legal process and fully explore their options to gain legal status in the UK.

This year we have been part of the Justice Together Initiative, which seeks to provide consistent free legal support for people like our Action Housing clients. We have also continued to work with solicitors who supplement the skills and knowledge of our staff. We were again supported by a generous donation from the Lesley Aldridge Trust to buy a second fourbed home, bringing our total to three properties and greatly enhancing our ability to provide this essential service.

ents supported



helped with legal claims

 $\mathbf{10}$ positive move-ons*

*Where people were either granted refugee status, re-engaged with the asylum system or, in one case, chose to return to their home country

COULD YOU BE A LANDLORD?

Action Lettings and Action Housing are supported by our 17 generous Landlords who make their properties available to us at either a nominal or reduced monthly rent. This type of giving allows us to house and support our clients at a critical time in their lives. We have 'accidental landlords' who never planned to own a second property, retirees who purchased a property just for us, organisations using an existing asset and private landlords who own multiple properties and want to give back to others. Each makes a significant contribution to our clients' futures.

If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Landlord for Action Foundation get in touch with us using...

info@actionfoundation.org.uk

From a humane point of view I am so happy to be able to help refugees and those fleeing from fear and torment in their own countries. With the help of Action Foundation, these people are able to establish themselves in the UK and make a life for themselves. I particularly like the fact that Action Foundation helps my tenants to become independent.

From a practical point of view I have experienced many negative situations in the property world but Action foundation took all those worries away when they started to rent out my flats."

Sharyn Collins, Action Foundation landlord

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CCESS REPORT LAUNCHED

At the start of 2022, the UN Refugee Agency, UNHCR, published the <u>findings of our Action Access project</u> which found it is more humane and significantly less expensive to support vulnerable women seeking asylum in the community rather than in detention centres.

The evaluation, researched and compiled by Britain's largest independent social research organisation, NatCen (National Centre for Social Research) showed that:

- Supporting vulnerable female asylum seekers in the community is significantly better for their health and wellbeing
- Costs could be half as much as keeping somebody in immigration detention

Action Access was the very first Home Office-funded 'Alternatives to Detention' (ATD) pilot in the UK. The two-year project ran between 2019 and 2021 and supported 20 women asylum seekers in a community setting in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. The majority had previously been detained in Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre, Bedfordshire.

The women lived in shared accommodation, received one-to-one support from our support staff and were offered legal counselling. Although it wasn't a requirement of the pilot, the women also benefited from our charity's free English classes and our InterAction Drop-in.

The evaluation said this provided: "...a more humane and less stressful environment for pilot participants to engage in the legal review and make decisions about their future, compared with immigration detention. Even when those decisions were difficult and participants had no legal case to remain in the UK, the pilot gave the participants space and time to engage with their immigration options."





IMPACT OF ACTION ACCESS

The Action Access evaluation has been shared both nationally and internationally. Our CEO Duncan McAuley presented the findings at a conference in Rome arranged by the International Detention Coalition and our Head of Client Services, Emily Malcolm, addressed the all-party parliamentary group on immigration detention, which included five MPs and two representatives of the House of Lords. The report was also publicised by the BBC; in national and regional news outlets as well as being widely shared on social media.

Meanwhile we continue to support organisations like No to Hassockfield and Women for Refugee Women who are working hard to free the women detained in nearby Derwentside Immigration Removal Centre (Hassockfield).

digital NCLUSION

By providing a tablet and the training to use it, our Digital Inclusion project equips refugees and asylum seekers with the technology, skills and confidence to get online and engage safely with the digital world.

Launched during the pandemic, our DI project continued to grow throughout 2021 and into 2022. Our Action Foundation team of staff and volunteers worked with delivery partners West End Refugee Service; North East Solidarity Teaching; Walking With, and Northumberland County of Sanctuary. Together we ensured 296 people got online to access essential services, to stay in contact with friends and family, and engage with training or employment opportunities.

The project was supported by the North of Tyne Combined Authority and Newcastle City Council as well as generous donations of tablets and SiM cards from Lloyds Bank Foundation, Vodaphone, Good Things Foundation and many others.

296 people received a tablet, SIM card and digital skills training

149

people were referred from other Action Foundation projects (InterAction, Action Language, Action Housing and Action Letting) 147

partners, NEST, WERS, Walking With and Northumberland County of

500-800 hours of training delivered 15,000 GB of data provided

193

(at least 65%) people who registered had no working laptop or tablet when they joined

HOW DIGITAL INCLUSION HELPS - OF 76 CLIENTS SURVEYED:





reported increased confidence



said it helped their job seeking/work activities



their isolation



said it increased their independence



OUR DI GRADUATES

Erfan came to the UK from Iran at the end of 2018 with very little English and has benefited from both our Action Language and Digital Inclusion projects. As his English speaking progressed, Erfan began studying at Newcastle University. He also volunteered with Digital Inclusion, helping fellow asylum seekers and refugees learn how to use the internet safely. In December 2021 he not only graduated with an MSc in Computer Science, but also secured an IT analyst role within the NHS.

Erfan believes it was his volunteering that helped him land such a great job.

He said: "Although at the time I was so busy with my full-time study at university and working part-time jobs at the same time, I accepted to be a part of the (DI) project because I knew the atmosphere of Action Foundation and this opportunity was what I was looking for.

"I am so happy now that I did that as it was such an enjoyable experience to work in Digital Inclusion and I don't think I would have this job now without having done it.

"I learned things like how to manage people, how to explain things to people related to IT, which I'm doing at the moment with my new job."

Fouad also found a job because of his volunteering – with Action Foundation!

Fouad sought asylum in 2018 as he was stateless in Kuwait and was one of the first to train with Digital Inclusion. He received a tablet and digital training which he went on to share with others in his volunteering role.

"In lockdown I was forced to shield because I am diabetic and my son has sickle cell anaemia and had to have blood transfusions every three weeks. It was a difficult time, not going outside the house. Dark times. The tablet helped us communicate with our family in Kuwait. We did video calls and my boy sometimes used the tablet to learn or play some games."

In 2022 Fouad moved from volunteering to paid work with our InterAction team as a Project Officer.

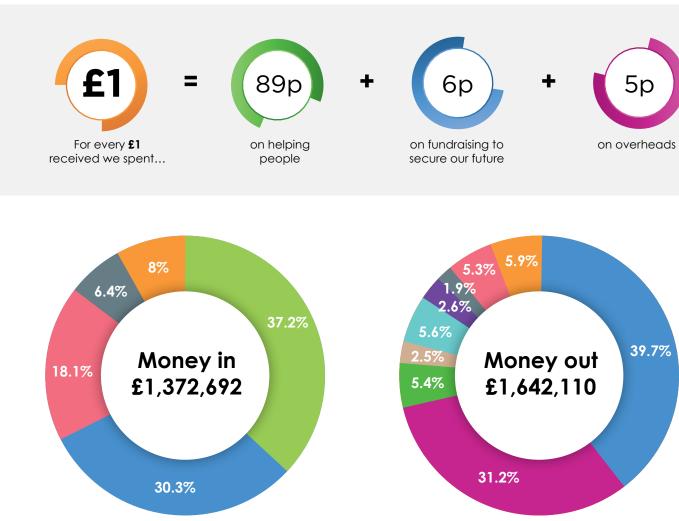
"I always wanted to work with and support vulnerable groups, in particular working with refugees and asylum seekers because I am a stateless person, who was an asylum seeker, and now a refugee therefore, I understand the experiences of others who are going through the same process, and I understand the processes involved. It is such an amazing opportunity to reach out to as many people as possible to empower, support, and build diverse relationships."

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Not having a telephone or access to the internet is, in my opinion, the illiteracy of the modern age, and I think that this project contributed even a little to the eradication of modern illiteracy and its lack of expansion among the immigrant community.

Fouad

FINANCES



	2021/22	2020/21
Grants	£510,577	£886,377
 Rent/Housing Benefit 	£415,561	£400,675
In Kind Support	* £248,998	£149,227
 Donations Gift Aid 	£88,337	£87,363
Contracts	£109,219	£212,454
Total:	£1,372,692	£1,736,096

For a full copy of our financial statements please see the Charity Commission Website.

*Volunteers' time and houses rented below market rate

	2021/22	2020/21
 Letting 	£651,589	£463,222
Language	£513,096	£323,204
Housing/Hosting	£87,893	£230,260
Access	-	£134,533
Data Project	£40,810	-
InterAction	£91,689	£87,360
Digital Inclusion	£42,406	£99,844
Covid-19 Crisis Support	£30,644	£79,494
 Overheads /Support 	£86,804	£58,476
Fundraising	£ 97,179	£101,430
Total:	£1,642,110	£1,577,823

FUNDRAISING

This year, your fundraising added up to an amazing £81,215 for Action Foundation's projects, around £25,000 of which came from people in the community doing their own, or formal fundraising events. Thank you to each and every one of our incredible supporters. You staged some really amazing events and challenges to raise funds for Action Foundation. From bake-offs, balls, garden parties to golf – all to support men, women and children seeking safety and protection in the North East. Here are just a few of our fabulous fundraisers.



£81,000+

Total raised from regular donors, one-off donations and our community of fundraisers



CAPTAIN TOM CHALLENGE

'The Captain Tom 100' gave people the chance to celebrate Captain Sir Tom Moore's generosity of spirit and the hope and joy he brought to millions. Staff and supporters took part in a 100k step challenge and our former CEO, Julian Prior and Head of Fundraising, Dave Bowditch completed a 100-mile cycle ride, raising over £600.



SUMMER GARDEN PARTIES

Supporters raised over £800 by welcoming people into their gardens for tea and cake. Action Language volunteer Ann Bingham hosted 40 people at her home in Hexham. Ann said: "A kettle, some cups, tea and cake is all it takes to welcome people into your garden, providing a venue for people to chat and find out about the work of Action Foundation."





REFUGEE WEEK

Benton Football Club challenged themselves to run seven, 14 or 21 miles over a week; Action Language volunteer, Nadia, hosted a Moroccan cookery workshop, and Rotaract Tyneside put on a virtual Brownie Bake-Along. These events raised over £500.

"Everyone had a great time and learned so much about Action Foundation, its purpose, and the ways it helps our community," - Rotaract Tyneside.



SISTER ACT

Following the Afghanistan crisis, the Lognonné sisters decided to do a fundraising challenge each for Action Foundation. Daisy (eight) did a Danceathon, Tilly (five) played in a golf day with her dad and Betsy (ten) climbed Cumbria's Helm Crag. The sisters raised £600 in total. Amazing work girls!



HAVING A BALL

It was fantastic to have the support of North East Junior Lawyers' Division who donated half the proceeds of their 2021 Summer Ball at Newcastle's Biscuit Factory to support our work.



GREAT NORTH RUN

Fifteen runners completed the GNR's 40th birthday event. Covid restrictions meant a new route, which went over the iconic Tyne Bridge not once but twice! They smashed their target to raise an amazing £6,687! One entrant, Richard Dawson, who had to pull out of the GNR due to injury also went on to run 48 miles in 48 hours in March raising more than £1,200.



GIFT OF WORDS

At Christmas your generosity led to us raising £13,120 through our Gift of Words campaign, in support of our Action Language project. Gift of Words had a fantastic response, with our Patron, the Bishop of Durham, the Right Revd Paul Butler endorsing the campaign. Online art store, Art for Refugees, created Christmas cards for us and donated over £1,000. Another supporter, Viv, raffled a beautiful homemade quilt and local graphic design company, Curtis Gabriel, held some festive fundraisers. We held a collection at City Church's annual carol service which raised over £200 and Muckle LLP donated £500 through their Community Foundation fund. A huge thank you to everyone involved this Christmas.



Above: Curtis Gabriel Christmas

THANK YOU

Thank you to the following for their fundraising and donations in 2020/21:

- Muckle LLP
- Curtis Gabriel
- Clifford Chance
- Art For Refugees
- Benton Football Club
- Behalla Store, Whitley Bay
- Rotaract Tyneside.
- Stowe Family Law
- City Church

We welcome new fundraisers. To download our pack, go to:



https://actionfoundation.org.uk/ wp-content/uploads/2021/04/ Fundraising-Pack-Final.pdf



BAKE-OFF

Action Foundation staff held their own 'Great British Bake Off' at our CastleGate HQ. It brought people together and raised some extra dough!



CAMPAIGNING

Early in 2022 we worked with local refugee charities and other organisations to launch a fundraising campaign called Just the Ticket.

Action Foundation stepped up to coordinate the initiative after contributing to an Asylum Matters report, 'A Place Like Prison', which highlighted the problems experienced by people living in initial accommodation, such as isolation.

More than 500 people seeking asylum are housed in so-called 'temporary' accommodation across Newcastle and one hotel is a 90-minute walk into the city centre. Asylum seekers in hotels receive just £8.24 per week to cover clothes, non-prescription medication and travel and they're not eligible for mainstream benefits.

TOGETHER WITH REFUGEES

Action Foundation is a member of Together With Refugees, a national coalition of organisations that believe in a more compassionate approach to those seeking sanctuary on our shores.

In September we joined other members, like West End Refugee Service and Asylum Matters, at King Edward's Bay, Tynemouth in a day of action to highlight the problems of the Government's Nationality and Borders Bill, which has since become law. The event drew wide media coverage. For more information about Together With Refugees visit: https://togetherwithrefugees.org.uk/ Just the Ticket aimed to help people access citybased support like legal help, health services and ESOL classes.

Thanks to matched funding from the National Emergencies Trust and the generosity of individual supporters Just the Ticket raised $\pounds 10,416$.

As a result, our InterAction staff and volunteers have already handed out over 200 travel tickets to people in hotels.



Photo credit: Dale Gillett, Good Cause Comm

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The beneficiaries have been so friendly, courteous, polite and thankful that people have come together to donate the money for these tickets.

Lesley Dunn (pictured left) InterAction Project Officer

A HUGE THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING...

- The Aurum Charitable Trust
- Buildings Connections Fund
- Changing Lives (from Newcastle City Council)
- Crisis Home For All
- The Daphne & Martin Cookson Fund at the Community Foundation serving Tyne & Wear and Northumberland
- The Muckle Fund at the Community Foundation serving Tyne & Wear and Northumberland
- The Opencast Charitable Fund at the Community Foundation serving Tyne & Wear and Northumberland
- The Pattinson Estate Agents Fund at the Community Foundation serving Tyne & Wear and Northumberland
- The Pea Green Boat Community First Fund at the Community Foundation serving Tyne & Wear and Northumberland
- The Sara Alexandra Bernstone Fund at the Community Foundation serving Tyne & Wear and Northumberland

- ESOL for Integration Fund- MHCLG Funding
- Lloyds Bank Foundation for England & Wales
- North of Tyne Combined Authority
- The National Emergencies Trust
- The Paul Hamlyn Foundation
- The Sir James Knott Trust
- Virgin Money Foundation
- Newcastle Fund
- Sport England (RISE)
- Tuixen Foundation
- County Durham Community Foundation
- Refugee Action Explore Adapt Renew
- South Tyneside CCG
- A B Charitable Trust
- Connected Voice Infection Control Grant
- Respond and Adapt Programme

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Times are tough and going to get tougher. It's not surprising that belts are being tightened and even legacies to charities are decreasing. I think it's even more important that we try to help good charities make the future better for those who are around after us. So I've made sure my will includes gifts to charities I know make a difference, including Action Foundation which I love and have given time to over the last few years. I've watched them transform lives and I'm grateful for that. It makes the future better for everyone.

One of our legacy givers

LEAVING A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

Did you know you can leave Action Foundation a gift in your will today that will help fund our tomorrow?

Every gift, no matter how large or small, makes a huge difference to the lives of refugees and people seeking asylum in Tyne and Wear across Tyne and Wear. Legacy gifts allow us to plan for our future and grow our vital Language, Accommodation, Casework and Digital support services.

Check out our website to find out more!

https://actionfoundation.org.uk/ get-involved/legacy-giving/



Charity No. 1132051 Company No. 6946097

Action Foundation is an award winning charity providing support to disadvantaged refugees, people seeking asylum and other migrants in the North East. We support and empower people to overcome immediate barriers, integrate with the community and build skills for the future.

Main Office (Newcastle)

0191 231 3113 CastleGate at City Church, Melbourne Street Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE1 2JQ

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 www.actionfoundation.org.uk

Did you know?

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You can leave Action Foundation a gift in your will today that will help fund our tomorrow. Visit: https://actionfoundation.org.uk/ get-involved/legacy-giving/

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The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service