

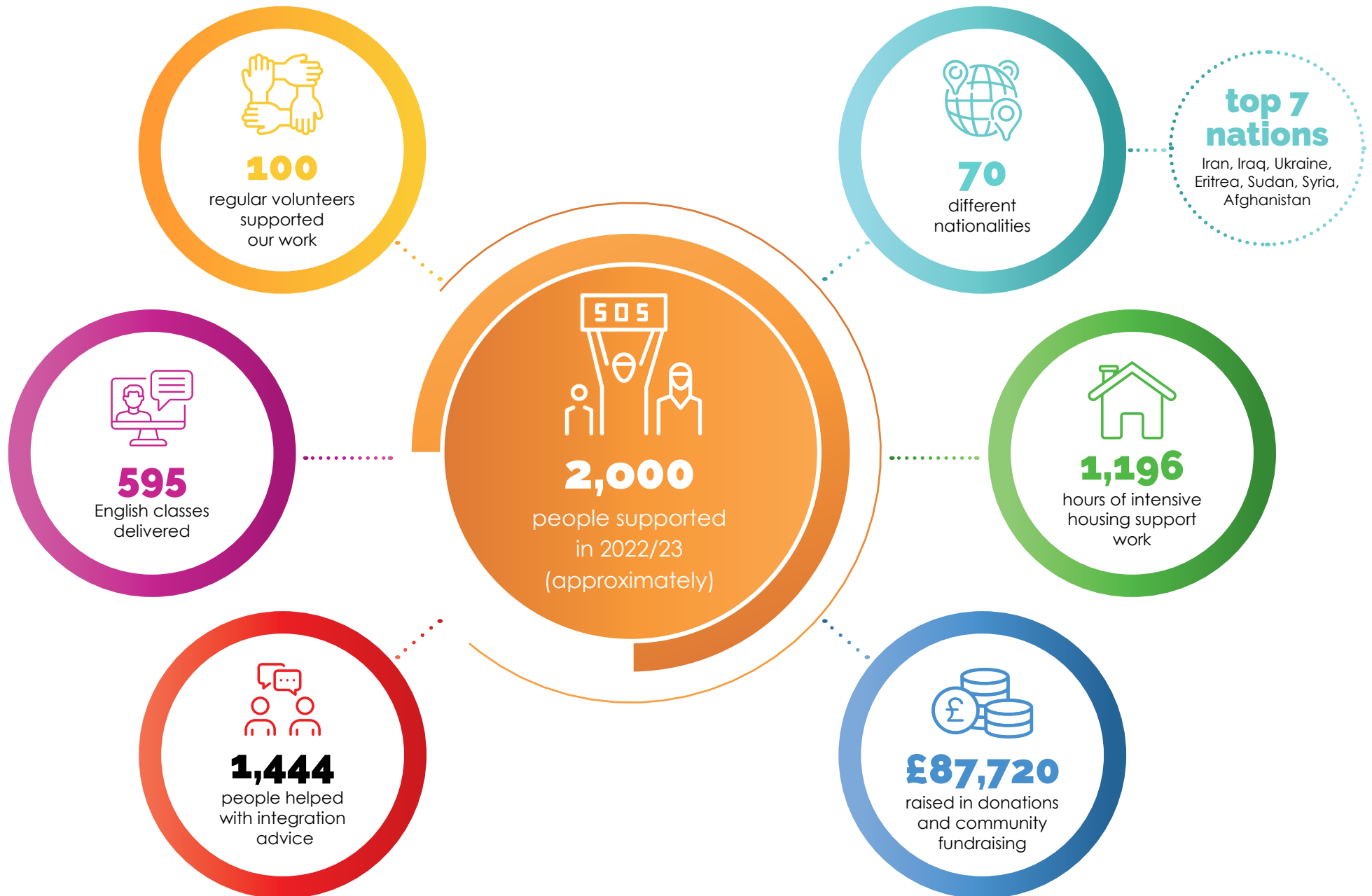


**action**  
FOUNDATION

**IMPACT  
REPORT  
2022/23**

**Empowering  
Refugees  
To Overcome  
Exclusion**

# THE YEAR IN NUMBERS





# INTRODUCTION

by Duncan McAuley, CEO

It's been another busy and rewarding year, with our work supporting asylum seekers, refugees and migrants in the North East reaching almost 2,000 people and their families. We have gathered momentum on our new social prescribing project in South Tyneside, delivered training to local authorities, completed our Just the Ticket travel costs campaign and started delivery of our new Strategy 2022-25.

It's been a hugely challenging year financially, which resulted in us making some necessary changes to our staff team and our Action Language project. That difficult and quite honestly

painful process has put us in a really strong position to continue to grow and provide support over the coming years despite the cost of living crisis and the significant challenges the charity sector is facing.

As government policy continues to target migrant, we're committed to providing welcome and support to those seeking safety and making their home here from across the world.



Duncan



# A LETTER FROM OUR CHAIR

By David Lyall

Welcome to Action Foundation's Impact Report! I would like to start by thanking our amazing staff, volunteers and partners for their tremendous teamwork this year in providing such a rich and warm welcome to new arrivals in the North East, as well as the ongoing support we have provided to hundreds of asylum seekers, refugees and migrants.

In this report you will find some stories of the incredible impact our work has had on the lives of remarkable people like Victoria, Destin and Feras. I enjoyed reading them and reflecting on the ongoing value of what we have all achieved together and hope you do too.

As a Board of Trustees, we are keenly aware of the opportunities and challenges before us as an organisation and so regularly seek to strengthen and further diversify our membership. We have gained greatly from the additions of Gaby Mandell and Rola Naeb to the Board. Both have brought a wealth of experience and wisdom to our work and we look forward to further additions to our numbers in the coming months.

A key challenge for us at present is ensuring the health and viability of our Accommodation, Action Language and InterAction projects, whilst also looking to diversify where we identify gaps in essential provision to our clients. Our preferred approach is always to do this in partnership with others. We are also determined to strengthen the resilience and sustainability of the organisation in this time of global turmoil.



David



# GIVING PEOPLE A HOME



## action HOUSING



We provided supported accommodation to **24 destitute asylum seekers** from **10 different countries**.



**75% of clients** moved on positively to live independently.



**92% of those** who completed a legal review had a positive outcome\*

## action LETTING



We supported **84 newly recognised refugees**, helping **36 to move** into independent living.



We helped arrange **4 family reunions** for people whose relatives were in other countries.



Our support workers clocked up an amazing **1,196 hours**, helping people to engage with legal advice, register with GPs, arrange college appointments and much more



Action Foundation currently manages **11 properties** in Newcastle and **7 in Gateshead** with **63 bedspaces** in total

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

## COULD YOU BE A PHILANTHROPIC LANDLORD?

We couldn't deliver our supported housing programme without the commitment of our philanthropic landlords. We're currently supported by 12 generous landlords who make their properties available to us at either a nominal or reduced monthly rent and our recent Room for Refugees campaign attracted new interest. Fiona Hall is one of our landlords.

She says: "***I would say to anyone who is considering renting to Action Foundation: 'Do it!' It's easier than renting to tenants directly, and you are giving a home to people who through no fault of their own might otherwise end up sleeping on the streets.***"

For more information, contact: [helencowgill@actionfoundation.org.uk](mailto:helencowgill@actionfoundation.org.uk)

## VICTORIA'S STORY

We just love it when our clients move out!

If that sounds harsh, allow us to clarify. Of course, we miss the friends we've got to know, but every move-on means we've helped empower that person to live independently.

Victoria has just moved into her own [Your Homes Newcastle](#) flat after many years living in Action Foundation accommodation.

Victoria first sought asylum in the UK almost 23 years ago and though she was granted another two years to remain here last year, she will have to reapply again. When you're living in that kind of limbo, it's important to have a secure place to stay.

Action Foundation stepped in 13 years ago when Victoria found herself homeless. She had been dispersed to Newcastle from London by the Home Office and, although she was able to stay with friends for a while, she could not depend on them indefinitely.

She was given a room in a shared house through our [Action Housing project](#) for destitute asylum seekers and was allocated a one-to-one support worker, Denise, who supported Victoria with her emotional wellbeing, particularly through her father's ill health and, when he died, her bereavement.

Denise also helped Victoria to access legal help and then with her Universal Credit claim and application for an independent tenancy.

After years of neglecting her hobbies – Victoria loves yoga and painting – she at last feels sufficiently settled to rediscover her passions and has begun teaching yoga as a volunteer.

In her new flat she has a big room filled with light which she's turned into a studio for her painting and yoga. Looking to the future, she would like to teach yoga professionally online.

She says: "***I don't know how I could have survived for so many years without having somewhere to live. Action Foundation has offered me a lot of help and I would like to say a big thank you.***"











# WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

A huge thank you to our incredible supporters and community fundraisers for making our campaigns such a success in 2022/23. Also, to those who took on their own personal challenges or staged fundraising events – thank

you - you really know how to put the fun into fundraising! From our Great North Runners to creative cooks and sponsored swimmers – you're all AMAZING!



## £87,720

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



20 people ran the Great North Run for us raising a total of £8,000.



Our former Head of Fundraising, Dave Bowditch, retired last year but not before completing a triple fundraising challenge for us! He cycled the Way of the Roses, ran the Great North Run and walked the Yorkshire 3 Peaks!



Our CEO, Duncan, along with three friends, swam the equivalent distance of the English Channel to raise money and awareness for Action Foundation. They got fantastic media coverage and raised thousands of pounds.



Lots of people donated or held fundraising events for our Warm Hearts Christmas Crowdfunder which was match funded by Aviva insurance company, raising £13,600.



We staged our first Step Up for Refugees event in August 2022 where supporters took on a step challenge.

## FUNDRAISING

Thank you to the following for their fundraising and in-kind support in 2022/23:

- Muckle LLP
- Clifford Chance
- Art for Refugees
- City Church
- Gardiner Richardson
- Aviva Community Fund
- Cool Blue
- Bellwoods, Whitley Bay
- Millfield Songsters
- Women's Institute, Jesmond

To download our fundraising pack, click the link below:

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



## ACTION FOUNDATION TRAINING

In 2022/23 we were commissioned by three local authorities: Stockton Borough Council; Durham County Council and Sunderland City Council.

We used our expertise in the refugee sector to deliver training on the UK Immigration System; Cultural Awareness and Trauma Informed Support. We hope to build on this work in the coming year. If your organisation is interested, please contact us.

“ Very useful training. It was well presented, and the coach was very knowledgeable, concise and clear in his presentation.

Durham County Council participant ”

“ I have a better understanding of the human aspect of migration.

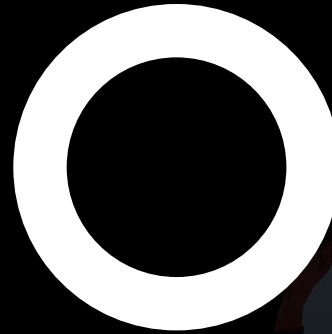
Sunderland County Council participant ”

“ There was no pressure as there often is with training courses. It was incredibly informative yet relaxed. Highly enjoyable.

Stockton Borough Council participant ”

# IT IS ALL POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF YOU, THANK YOU!

- AB Charitable Trust
- Aurum Charitable Trust
- Changing Lives (from Newcastle City Council)
- Clifford Chance
- Community Foundation Tyne and Wear
- County Durham Community Foundation
- Garfield Weston
- Gateshead Council
- Hospital of God at Greatham
- Lloyds Bank Foundation
- Justice Together
- Newby Trust
- Winter Wellbeing Fund from Newcastle City Council
- Newcastle Fund from Newcastle City Council
- North of Tyne Combined Authority
- Pattinson's Fund (Community Foundation Tyne and Wear)
- Paul Hamlyn Foundation
- Pea Green Boat (Community Foundation Tyne and Wear)
- Porticus
- Refugee Action
- Rothley Trust
- Sir James Knott Trust
- South Tyneside Primary Care Network
- The National Lottery
- Tuixen Foundation
- Virgin Money Foundation



**action**  
FOUNDATION

Charity No. 1132051  
Company No. 6946097

## Main Office (Newcastle)

0191 231 3113

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

✉ [info@actionfoundation.org.uk](mailto:info@actionfoundation.org.uk)

➡ [www.actionfoundation.org.uk](http://www.actionfoundation.org.uk)

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The Queen's Award  
for Voluntary Service