

**THE DEPOT SUPPORTING REFUGEES IN
DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY (SCIO)
TRUSTEES REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
28TH FEBRUARY 2026
CHARITY NUMBER:- SC046366**

WHAT WE DID

In 2025, we have consistently provided assistance to displaced individuals in D&G. Our work includes:

- Welcome Bags: 137 distributed to all newcomers at the Asylum Hotel, these bags contain essential items such as pants, socks, and toiletries for their first few days.
- 68 Phones and 200 SIM Cards: We have supplied phones and SIM cards for those in need and arranged repairs for broken devices.
- Gym Memberships: To support mental health, we offer 40 reduced price gym memberships to residents at the hotel.

- Activities : A diverse range of activities have been organized, including workshops on still life painting, raku pottery, bunting, music, drumming, portraiture, and yoga.
- We also facilitated three mental health sessions with a volunteer psychologist.
- Excursions included visits to Scottish heritage sites like Hill House, Edinburgh, the National Museum of Scotland, and Culzean Castle.
- Additionally, we celebrated International Women's Day, Refugee Week, and hosted Palestinian and Yemeni cultural events.



International Women's Day



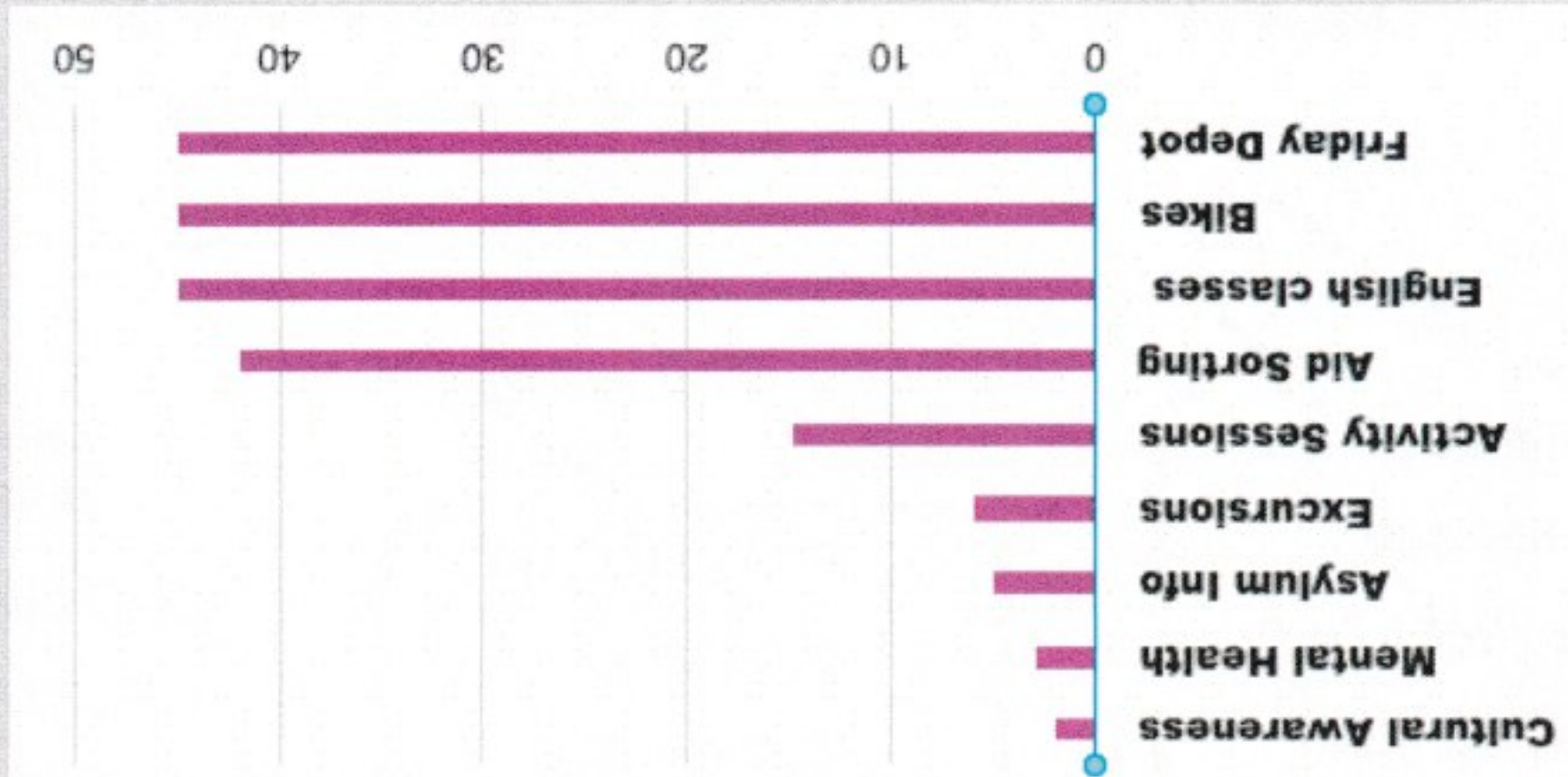
Drumming Workshop

- Support for Ukraine: We have provided aid to Ukraine on six different occasions, delivering donated clothing, shoes, and blankets to those in need.

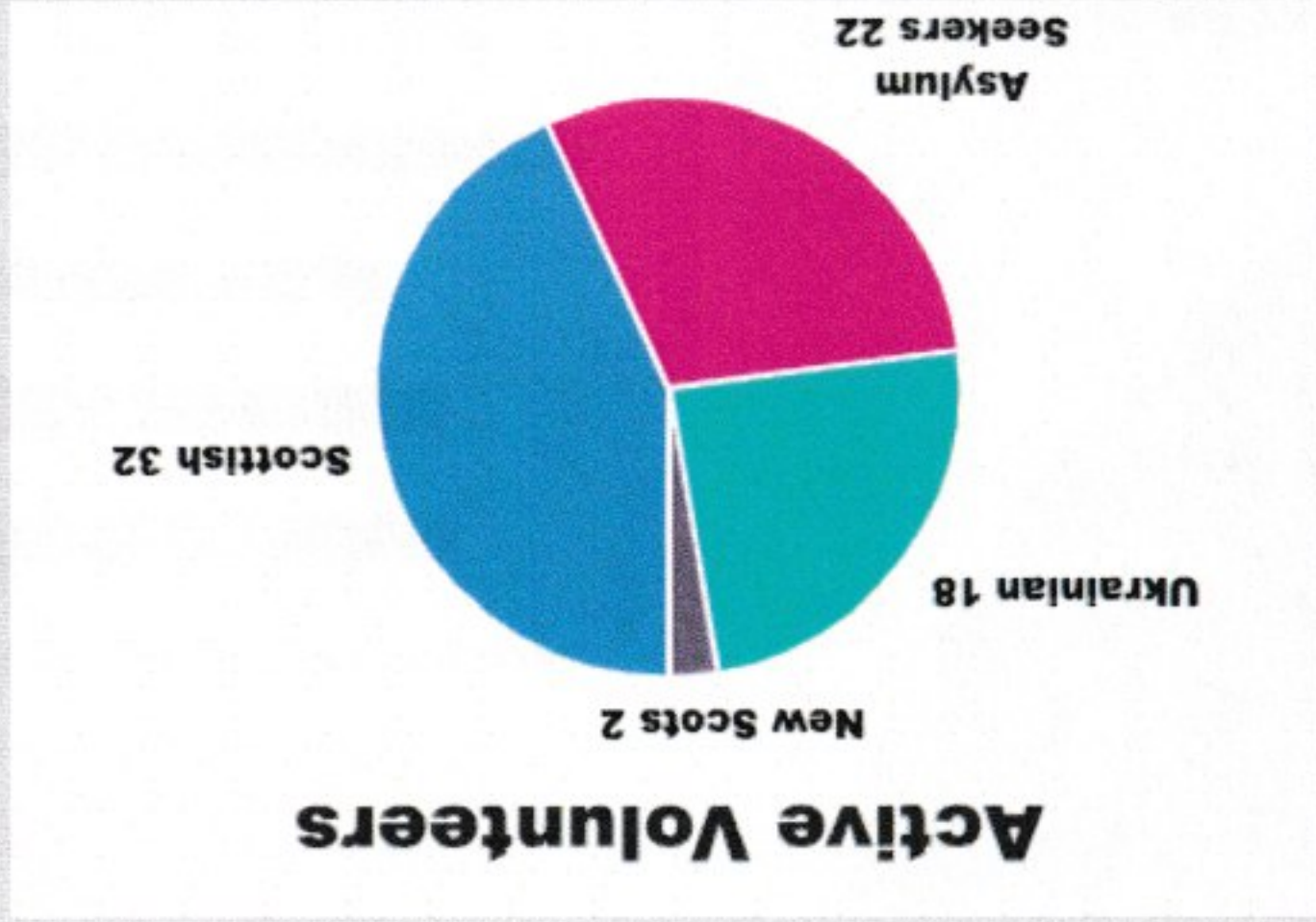
FACTS AND FIGURES

682 Hours of support offered
137 Welcome Bags distributed
1206 Volunteer hours
208 Activity sessions provided
76 Volunteers
278 People Supported

Activities at The Depot



The Range of Activities Provided by The Depot



International Makeup of The Depot Volunteers

CHALLENGES and learning



The Depot

07

Report



ENGAGEMENT

Our focus this year has been on the population of asylum seekers staying at the local hotel. However, we have noticed that this group tends to be quite transient, with some individuals departing shortly after their arrival. Those who receive their status often choose to move to larger cities, leaving Dumfries behind. This unpredictability complicates the management of activity programs, as we can never be certain about who will be available to participate. Nonetheless, we continue to engage with those we work with, even if they may move on quickly.



VOLUNTEERS

We depend significantly on volunteers to manage many of our activities, which can make it challenging to find enough help during the holiday season. To address this, we have made efforts to schedule activities outside of the holiday periods. We have been developing techniques alongside our New Scot volunteers to help address the specific set of requirements for working with such a diverse range of volunteers. One of our plans for the upcoming year is to develop our knowledge and resources in this area to be able to continue to engage and provide learning opportunities and vital support for refugee and asylum seeker volunteers who wish to take on voluntary roles.



FUNDING

Funding constraints limit our capacity to provide additional staff support and activities, especially in terms of casework assistance. We are optimistic about the possibility of training volunteers to help individuals navigate their immigration journeys.

We are a small team of three part-time staff members, totaling 1.1 WTE, supported by a committed Board of Trustees. Our work is made possible through the generous contributions of various wonderful funders whose grants empower us to fulfill our mission.

CASE STUDIES

SUPPORT THROUGH MUSIC



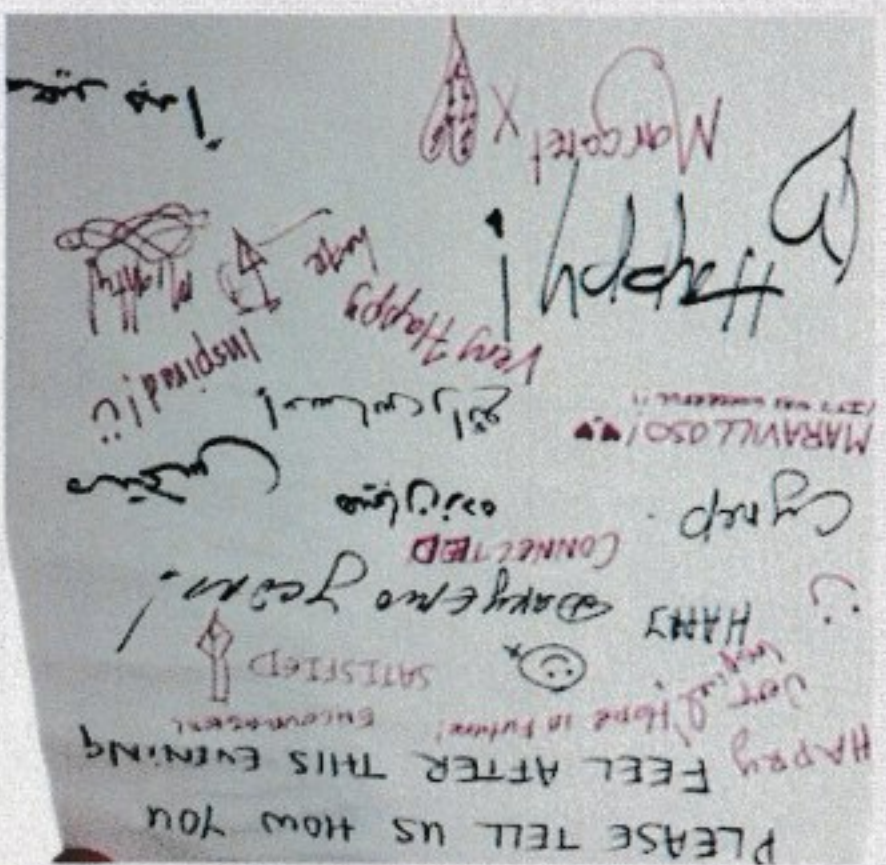
H. came from Eritrea where he was a musician. He played an instrument called a Wata. Music is important for his identity and his well-being, but no Wata was available for him to play locally.

Volunteers at The Depot connected him with Wordsmith Crafts, a local CIC that runs heritage craft events. With their help, he was able to make a Wata out of wood, hide, and horsehair. The joy on his face as he opened the bag containing the instrument and the pleasure he found in playing it was immense.

As a Thank you he agreed to participate in a concert showing some of our local musical talent. We heard from H on the Wata, we heard French songs, Scottish folk music, some Ukelele music and some Bob Dylan!



40 people attended and we shared some international food. Those who attended gave this feedback about how it had made them feel....



Connected
Hope in the future
Happy
Inspired



H has now moved to London where he is forging a career as a musician.

Contents

Trustees' report	1 - 3
Independent examiner's report	4
Receipts and payments account	5
Statement of balances	6
Notes to the accounts	7 - 9



Trustees' Report for the year ended 28th February 2026 Scottish Charity Number SCO46366

The Depot – Supporting Refugees in Dumfries and Galloway

The Depot reflects a space that organises a wide range of initiatives, in and beyond the building, we always provide a warm welcome and safe place for all people who have been forced to flee their homes and arrive in Dumfries & Galloway. The Depot is a community-led charity, founded in September 2015 and our early years focussed on supporting arriving Syrian families and sending sorted donations overseas. Since early 2022, we provide a welcome space and support to significant numbers of Ukrainian refugees and some Afghan Families who are now settled into the region. Since 2023 we have offered focussed support aligned to the needs of Asylum Seekers.

Please refer to our Annual Report for an overview of activities and achievements during the Financial Year.

The Board of Trustees: The trustees who have served during Financial Year ended 28th February 2026 were as follows:

- Shirley Ferrier
- Elizabeth Dawson
- Julie Smith
- John Crosby

Appointment and Recruitment of Trustees: The board may at any time appoint any person to be a charity trustee by way of a resolution passed by majority vote at a board meeting.

Staff: Our small team formed from 3 part time staff work very hard to respond to changing demands and work with our volunteers, local partners and national organisations to support our service users.

Further information:

- Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/thedepot>

Registered Address: The Pend, Terregles Park, Terregles, Dumfries DG2 9TH
Email: Hello@thedepot.scot



Financial Review:

Please refer to our accounts for 2025/2026 submitted with this report.

- As well as restricted funding provision, we receive regular financial donations from individuals.
- Overhead costs are apportioned as appropriate.

Statement of the charity's policy on reserves - Our policy states that we should keep sufficient unreserved funds to cover at least 3 months wages and rent.

Details of any deficit - There have been no deficits.

Donated facilities and services – None

Future Plans:

As long as current funding allows and continues - we expect to continue to provide a safe environment where those seeking Asylum and Refugees can access -

- A place to meet over food and drinks
- English Language reading and conversation
- Friendly advice and guidance
- Appropriate sorted donations and essentials,
- Other wellbeing activities such as Mix and Mingle, Music sessions etc, Support for Gym membership, Bicycles and organized Trips.

Most of our refugees including Syrians and Ukrainian are regarded as settled and Afghan families are not arriving in the numbers originally envisaged, this means that the Council need for settlement support has ended. Our partnership is expected to continue as we align our activities to integration.

Asylum Seekers are not funded and our Operations Manager has focused on seeking funding from the Private Sector and other sources to ensure we have funding for our core staff costs and our key projects.

We know that the political aims are to reduce the numbers of asylum seekers to be accommodated in hotels and therefore expect to see decreasing numbers. However, emphasis is shifting to the needs of settled refugees (including Asylum Seekers to have recently received leave to remain). We expect to seek funding to enable us to develop friendly support and guidance and provision of proactive information sessions including workshops and one to one support as needed.

Registered Address: The Pond, Terregles Park, Terregles, Dumfries DG2 9TH
Email: Hello@thedepot.scot

Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:

Print name

Shirley Ferrier

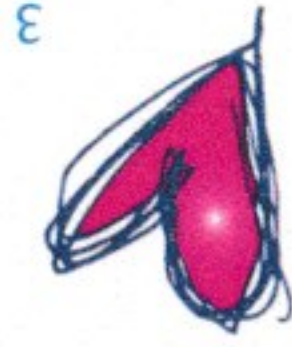
Designation

Chair

Date

17th April 2026

Registered Address: The Pend, Terregles Park, Terregles, Dumfries DG2 9TH
Email: Hello@thedepot.scot



I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 28th February 2026 which are attached as part of this document.

Respective responsibilities of management committee and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1)(d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under Section 44(1)(c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the independent examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

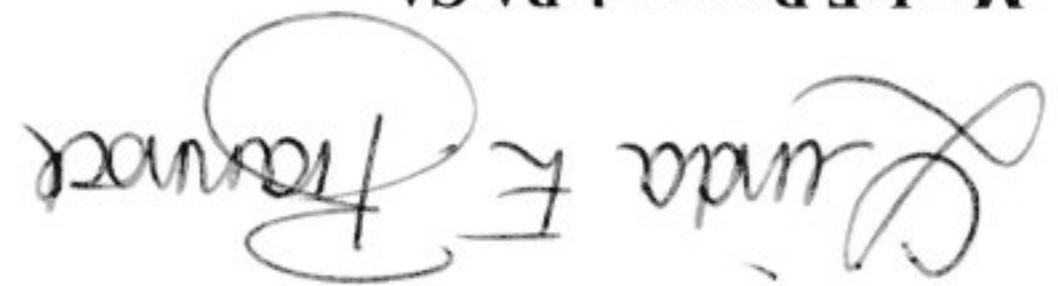
In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

a. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations

have not been met, or

b. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Mrs L E Brannock BA CA

Messrs Carson & Trotter

Chartered Accountants

123 Irish Street

Dumfries

DG1 2PF

Date: 31st July 2026

Statement of Balances
as at 28th February 2026

	2026	£		2025	£
Bank and cash	58,205		Opening balance	27,843	
Surplus for the year	30,500			30,362	
Closing balance	88,705			58,205	
Reserves					
Unrestricted funds	25,793	3		16,308	
Restricted funds	62,912	3		41,897	
Total funds	88,705			58,205	

The Charity has no other investments, assets or material liabilities.

Approved by the Trustees on 17th April 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Shirley Ferrier - Chair

Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 28th February 2026

1. Accounting policies
- 1.1. Basis of preparation

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Charities and Trustees Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).
2. Grants

	2026	2025
Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
£	£	£
Mental Health	320	-
National Lottery	29,923	29,923
Foundation Scotland	500	500
D & G Council	10,000	15,840
ANCBC	500	500
D & G Council - NSF	-	-
Scottish Refugees	-	-
Faith in Community	-	-
CMHW	11,400	11,400
Loreburn CC	-	-
Galloway & South Climate Hub	1,250	1,250
BOS Foundation	-	10,000
	10,320	69,413
		79,733
		76,425

All of the income from grants in 2025 was restricted.

The Depot-Supporting Refugees in Dumfries & Galloway(SCIO)

**Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 28th February 2026**

3. Statement of funds

	Balance at 1st March 2025	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 28th February 2026
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds:					
Friendly Faces	11,247	-	(3,529)	-	7,718
Mears Foundation	100	-	(100)	-	-
YPI	17	-	(17)	-	-
ANCBC	9,440	500	(10,143)	203	-
Basic Needs	401	-	(430)	29	-
CMHW Fund	9,015	-	(9,128)	113	-
Bike fund	1,318	11,975	(3,906)	-	9,387
Enable grant	8,356	10,000	(10,781)	-	7,575
Gym memberships	329	7,298	(7,181)	-	446
Mobile devices	372	3,500	(3,907)	35	-
NSAF Fruity Friday	434	-	(467)	33	-
NSAF Info sessions	299	-	(304)	5	-
NSAF M & M	361	-	(361)	-	-
NSAF Trips	208	-	(212)	4	-
Biosphere	-	1,250	740	-	510
CMHW 26 Fund	-	11,400	687	-	10,713
Friendly Faces 25	-	5,000	5,030	30	-
National Lottery	-	29,923	3,360	-	26,563
Unrestricted funds:					
Unrestricted general funds	16,308	17,892	(7,955)	(452)	25,793
Total funds	58,205	98,738	(68,238)	-	88,705

The unrestricted general funds represent the free funds of the charity which are not designated for particular purposes.

Friendly Faces

Grant from Dumfries and Galloway Council for work and materials to welcome Ukrainian refugees.

Mears Foundation

Grant to support outdoor volunteering for asylum seekers based at Mercure Hotel. This fund is now closed.

Youth Philanthropy Initiative - School Grants Competition

Restricted fund for donations overseas. This fund is now closed.

ANCBC

Restricted grant to extend the opening hours of The Depot. This fund is now closed.

Basic Needs

Restricted fund to support the basic needs of those claiming asylum at the Mercure Hotel. This fund is now closed.

CMHW Fund

Restricted grant to support activities for New Scots within The Depot. This fund is now closed.

Bike Fund

Restricted Fund to support the provision of bikes to New Scots.

Enable Grant

Restricted grant to support our volunteers.

Gym Memberships

Fund for subsidised gym memberships.

Mobile Devices

Restricted fund to support the IT needs of those claiming asylum at the Mercure Hotel. This fund is now closed.

NSAF Fruity Friday

Restricted grant to provide healthy snacks at The Depot. This fund is now closed.

NSAF Info Sessions

Restricted grant to provide information sessions for New Scots. This fund is now closed.

NSAF M & M

Restricted grant for provision of Mix and Mingle Activities at The Depot. This fund is now closed.

NSAF Trips

Restricted grant for provision of trips for New Scots. This fund is now closed.

Biosphere

Restricted grant provided by the Dumfries & Galloway Climate Hub Galloway and Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere and supported The Depot Garden Project.

National Lottery

Retricted grant from National Lottery Community Fund

CMHW 26 Fund

Restricted fund to support Welcome and Information sessions for new arrivals.

Friendly Faces 25

Restricted fund from Dumfries & Galloway Council supporting integration work. This fund is now closed.

4.

Transfers between funds

Where a restricted fund has had an overspend, funds are transferred from unrestricted funds to clear this.