



# Churches Together in the Merseyside Region

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## SUPPORT FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS S.A.S

### Report – October 2014

As you all may know by now Chas Raws was forced to step down from co-ordinating the SAS Destitution Project in January 2014 on the grounds of ill health. Although I had not met Chas before I have visited Chas several times during his handover of this project. It was a privilege to meet him and I am indebted to him for explaining to me the background and the many tentacles of this project. I sincerely hope that Chas is progressing well and wish him all the best.

I agreed with CTMR in January 2014 to be Acting Co-ordinator for the CTMR/ SAS destitution project until a more permanent replacement for Chas Raws is found. I am also a Trustee of ALM who act as an agency of CTMR to deliver the SAS Destitution Project on the ground. To some extent therefore I have a vested interest in ensuring sufficient funds are in place and available to enable this much needed project to continue with minimal disruption.

I have prepared a summary statement of financial activities for the 9 months period to September 2014, grouped under main headings of income and expenditure. Also the comparative figures for the year to December 2013 are shown. For ease of reference I have combined the Accommodation and Relief Funds into one SAS Fund figure. However those underlying funds are still recorded separately in the CTMR /SAS books, as are the individual bank accounts which are maintained separately.

Clearly the Project could not function without the ongoing support of individuals [including 26 standing orders and some anonymous], groups, churches and charitable trusts and the organisations that have made grants to SAS over the past years. On behalf of all asylum seekers and refugees who benefit from your generosity I cannot thank you enough.

For several years CTMR/SAS was unable to make a contribution towards ALM management costs of the Destitution Project. However for the last few months we have provided a monthly grant equivalent to one day per week of the ALM Destitution Manager's salary. This will continue while funds allow.

Since the last report we have utilised two further premises [now 4 in total] to ensure the safeguarding of nine male asylum seekers, mainly Iranian. Their situation had become untenable and ALM took immediate action to re-house them once they were made aware of the extent of their problems.

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#### Presidents

The Most Rev'd Malcolm McMahon, The Archbishop of Liverpool  
The Right Rev'd Paul Bayes, The Bishop of Liverpool  
The Rev'd Dr Sheryl M Anderson, Chair of the Liverpool Methodist District  
The Rev'd Jacky Embrey, Moderator of the Mersey Synod of the United Reformed Church  
The Rev'd Phil Jump, Regional Minister, North West Baptist Association  
Major Drew McCombe, North-Western Divisional Commander, Salvation Army

*(Churches Together in the Merseyside Region is a registered charity, No.519061)*

ALM continue to deliver weekly grants to the destitute as well as daily breakfast [usually porridge], a hot lunch, toiletries, donated clothes and furniture where possible.

As a relative newcomer to this project I asked the ALM Destitution Manager recently to provide a short report showing how ALM is delivering the SAS project on the ground by trying to alleviate the dreadful situation of some asylum seekers who present themselves to ALM. I can do no better than show an extract of her report:

“...ASYLUM LINK MERSEYSIDE DESTITUTION PROJECT

The Destitution Project is currently housing seventeen destitute asylum seekers in four houses; one house for women and three for men. There are twelve men and five women in total. The furniture, cutlery, crockery, bedding and all other household essential are provided by the project.

Two of the women are pregnant. The first is due to give birth within the next two weeks and the second in January. We housed a third pregnant woman who moved into Section 4 accommodation in April, a few days before her baby was born. The Home Office leaves pregnant women destitute until their 8<sup>th</sup> month of pregnancy.

The three men's houses have gas and electricity meters. We pay £10 per week, per person for these meters, totalling £120 per week. Rent is paid on two of the men's houses. The third house was let to us rent free for the first few months; the landlord will soon begin to charge. The rent for the women's house is inclusive of bills.

The Destitution project also comprises of the Food Store, which is essentially a Food Bank. All of our destitute clients are welcome to collect a food parcel each week from the Food Store. This includes the clients we are unable to house. Between 35-50 people attend the Food Store on a weekly basis. We offer basic items which can be taken each week. These include rice, pasta, tinned fruit and vegetables, onions, potatoes, cereals and milk. Each client can take toiletries once a fortnight. These are basic supermarket brands of shower gel, shampoo, deodorant, razors, toothpaste, sanitary towels etc, as well as laundry detergent. The toiletries are donated to us. Oil, salt, sugar can be collected once per month.

The British Red Cross also give us £7000 worth of £5 ASDA vouchers for our destitute clients, which we distribute at the Food Store once a fortnight.

All of our destitute clients can spend up to £5 per week in the ALM clothes sale. Items are around £1 each, so people are able to afford to buy clothes and shoes.....”

Thank you for your continued support.

**Neil Cunningham**  
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October 2014

**Support for Asylum Seekers**  
 CTMR – Churches Together in the Merseyside Region  
 Registered Charity Number 519061

**Statement of Financial Activities**  
**for the nine months period to 30 September 2014**

	<b>Total 2014</b>	<b>Total 2013</b>
<b>Incoming Resources</b>		
Individual Donations	3,108	4,745
Grants from Organisations	26,257	11,495
	29,365	16,240
 <b>Resources Expended</b>		
Rent on Houses	8,508	13,374
Probation Grants for Asylum seekers	125	750
Utilities and Council Tax	3,761	2,076
Destitution Support	9,416	19,254
	21,810	35,454
 <b>Net Incoming (Outgoing) Resources</b>	7,555	(19,214)
 <b>Fund Balances</b>		
At 1 January 2014	2,765	21,979
At 30 September 2014	10,321	2,765
 <b>Represented By :</b>		
Bank Balances @ 30 September 2014	10,321	2765