



Voices in Exile

VOICES IN EXILE **IMPACT REPORT** 2025



Our values

We are committed to supporting refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants at risk as they face significant social, legal, and economic barriers to stability in the UK.

Our work is grounded in justice, dignity, and inclusion, ensuring everyone we support has the chance to build a safe, stable, and hopeful future.



Respect

We meet every person who comes to us with humanity, empathy, and care. Whether we're supporting service users, volunteers, partners, or colleagues, we recognise each individual as someone whose experiences, strengths, and dignity matter.



Justice

We believe that everyone deserves fair treatment and equal access to their rights. Our team works persistently to remove barriers, challenge unfair decisions, and stand with people as they navigate systems that are often stacked against them.



Inclusivity

We recognise the strength that comes from diverse voices and lived experience. The insights of the people we support shape our services, our decisions, and our organisational culture ensuring the work we do reflects the real needs of our communities.



Openness

We strive to be transparent, honest, and reflective in how we operate. We share information openly, welcome feedback, and aim to build trust through clarity, communication, and continuous learning.



Solidarity

We stand with all those affected by the UK immigration system and the hostile environment, advocating for fairness, compassion, and meaningful systemic change.



Professionalism

We bring expertise, care, and integrity to all our work. Our staff and volunteers work to high standards, uphold ethical practice, and ensure that every person who comes to us receives informed, reliable support.

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A personal story: Building a new life for me and my family

I arrived in the UK with my family about a year ago. Everything felt completely new and unfamiliar.

From the beginning, Voices in Exile supported us to settle into our new life. Our caseworker helped us understand how things work in the UK, showed us around the city and accompanied us to important appointments. At such a confusing time, having someone there with us made a huge difference. It helped us feel less alone and more confident.

Voices also supported us to start learning English through their ESOL classes. As our English improved, they helped us move on to other courses so we could continue learning. This support helped me build the confidence to travel around the city by myself and manage everyday life.

“Voices in Exile [...] helped us build the confidence to start a new life here.”

A year later, our lives look very different. Our children are settled and active in the community, taking part in sports and school activities. We have met neighbours and made new friends, and everyone has been very welcoming.

I am continuing to improve my English and have started thinking about my future career again. I now have a CV and hope to return to my previous profession or work in a school or nursery.

We are very grateful for the support we received from Voices in Exile. They were there for us at every step when we first arrived and helped us build the confidence to start a new life here.

A message from our Director: Alison

This year has shown the very best of what Voices in Exile can achieve when compassion, expertise, and determination come together.

In 2025, we supported more than 1,000 people across our immigration advice and casework, destitution and homelessness advice, food bank, and wraparound support for those on Home Office resettlement programmes, a reminder of both the scale of need and the strength of our community.

We expanded our reach to people in asylum hotels and those facing homelessness, disbursed over £50,000 from our hardship fund, and ensured families in crisis had access to essential food and advice. Our team also brought people together through group sessions for wellbeing, ESOL and employability, helping build connection, confidence, and practical skills. None of this would be possible without the dedication of our staff, volunteers, and trustees.

We achieved this despite a challenging backdrop: new restrictive immigration laws, reduced move-on periods, rising homelessness and increasingly hostile rhetoric. Yet our partners, funders and supporters stood with us, strengthening our work through collaboration, advocacy and solidarity.

“With collective courage and solidarity, we will keep pushing for a future where refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants can live with safety, dignity, and hope.”

Since becoming Director in April 2025, I've started our work on leading Voices in Exile into a new chapter rooted in systemic change, anti-racism, wellbeing, and lived experience leadership.



We have created a new Participation & Engagement role, formed our Lived Experience Advisory Group, recruited three new trustees, launched anti-racism work, and set a new campaigning direction shaped by staff, volunteers, and service users.

Most importantly, our service users continue to shape our work, bringing lived expertise that guides our strategy and provision. Our goal is to reduce crisis-driven, one-to-one advocacy by tackling the systemic barriers that create hardship. With collective courage and solidarity, we will keep pushing for a future where refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants can live with safety, dignity, and hope.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alison".

Alison Kelly
Director of Voices in Exile

A message from our Chair of Trustees: Emma

It is a privilege to be writing this as Interim Chair of Trustees, having joined Voices in Exile in September 2025. I am stepping into the role at a time that feels both challenging and important for the organisation and the wider sector.

I want to be open about the position I come into this role from. I am a white British woman and I carry the privilege that comes with that. I am also aware that this report, like the last, is introduced by leadership that does not yet fully reflect the communities we serve. That matters. As a Board, we are starting to look carefully at what this means in practice. This includes how we broaden representation, how we embed lived experience leadership, and how we continue learning as an organisation.

My role as Interim Chair is part of a period of transition. Over the coming months, we will strengthen the Board and run an open process to appoint a permanent Chair. This is an opportunity to build on strong foundations while making sure our leadership continues to develop in line with our values.

This has been another year where the rights and dignity of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants have come under pressure. What stands out in this report is not only the scale of those challenges, but the strength of the response around them. Every day, people are navigating systems that are complex, inconsistent and often unwelcoming. Alongside that, we see resilience, determination and generosity. Not because they should be required, but because they are.

We also see the commitment of staff, volunteers and partners, who show up with care, professionalism and a strong sense of solidarity. Their work, alongside the voices and experiences of the people we support, is what gives this organisation its strength.

Voices in Exile has always been rooted in values of justice, dignity and inclusion. Looking ahead, our focus is on strengthening that in practice.



This means supporting lived experience to shape what we do, building long term sustainability, and contributing to the wider changes needed so that fewer people are pushed into crisis in the first place.

Governance has a part to play in this. At its best, it provides the structure and stability that allows people and ideas to flourish. As Trustees, our role is to support and steward the organisation responsibly, while creating the conditions for staff, volunteers and service users to contribute and thrive.

This report reflects a year of significant work and collective effort. It also shows that there is more to do. I am grateful to be part of this at an important moment, and to everyone who makes this work possible. Staff, volunteers, partners and, most importantly, the people who use our services continue to make Voices in Exile exceptional.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Emma McDermott'.

Emma McDermott
Interim Chair of Trustees



Who we are: Voices in Exile

Twenty years ago, Voices in Exile began as a small, determined response to a growing need in our community: people arriving in Sussex in search of safety, but finding themselves without support or stability, and often without a voice.

Today, we are a lifeline for refugees, asylum seekers, and vulnerable migrants – many with no recourse to public funds - who find themselves navigating not only a new country, but a system that can be overwhelming and unforgiving. Every week, people come through our door carrying stories shaped by war, persecution and loss, but also hope, skills, experience, and much more.

At Voices in Exile, we work alongside our service users. Our teams deliver free, regulated immigration support, housing and welfare advice, and practical help for people in crisis.

We help families secure safe accommodation after months of uncertainty, accompany people to vital medical appointments, offer space for people to practise English, build confidence and make new friends. Through our weekly food bank, we support service users while they wait for decisions that will shape their future.

Every part of our work is grounded in the belief that people thrive when their strengths are recognised and they are included in decisions about their own lives.

Our charitable aims:

- Reducing financial hardship
- Ensuring access to justice, strengthening wellbeing
- Widening access to education and opportunity
- Challenging the harmful misconceptions that shape public understanding of migration.

Why our work matters

Current need and the local and national landscape

In 2025, public debate around migration became increasingly tense, accompanied by legislative measures that placed a stronger emphasis on enforcement. These developments contributed to a more challenging environment for people seeking asylum and for the organisations supporting them.

The Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Act 2025

On 2 December 2025, the Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Act came into force. Building on previous legislation, it expands the powers of Border Security, introduces new criminal offences, and increases law-enforcement powers relating to the search and seizure of electronic devices. It also encourages greater data-sharing between government departments for immigration and security purposes. However, the Act does not provide safe and legal routes and further destabilises immigration status for many, making it harder for refugees and migrants to secure long-term safety.

Housing, homelessness, and hotels

In September last year, the Home Office reduced the move-on period for newly recognised refugees from 56 days back to 42 days. This shift has significantly heightened the risk of homelessness for people granted status, reversing a pilot programme that showed promising early results in reducing homelessness and supporting positive integration. We continue to urge Ministers to reconsider this decision, which undermines wider government objectives to reduce homelessness and protect vulnerable people.

Hotels used as asylum accommodation have also faced increasing pressure, including targeted protests.

This year, Voices in Exile joined more than 60 organisations calling for meaningful reform to the initial accommodation system, as highlighted in the Conversation Over Borders' *Safe Homes, Not Hotels* report. With hotel contracts containing a break clause in 2026, we are urging the government to adopt a community-based, cost-effective model led by local authorities instead of private contractors.

Right to work

Alongside other refugee rights organisations, we continue to call for people seeking asylum to be granted the right to work.

Allowing people to work would enable individuals to use their skills, contribute to the economy, regain autonomy, and reduce reliance on exploitative informal labour markets. It would also provide vital protection from trafficking and modern slavery.



Building relationships and campaigning

In an increasingly hostile policy and public environment, Voices in Exile continues to strengthen its relationships and campaigning work locally and nationally. Alongside meeting urgent need through frontline services, we are intentionally investing in influencing and collaboration to tackle the systemic barriers that push refugees, asylum seekers and migrants into crisis in the first place.

During 2025, we developed a clearer, more strategic approach to campaigning and influencing, supported by an external consultant and shaped by the voices of people with lived experience, staff, volunteers and trustees. This work enables us to amplify the realities faced by the communities we support, challenge harmful narratives, and contribute to practical, evidence-based change.

National campaigning and collective influence

We regularly contribute to national campaigns led by refugee and migrant rights organisations, adding our frontline expertise and local insight to calls for policy reform. Over the year we signed and supported a wide range of joint statements, open letters, petitions and public actions, including campaigns on the right to work, family reunion, asylum accommodation standards, move-on periods, anti-racism and the need for safe and legal routes.

By working in coalition with organisations such as Refugee Action, NACCOM, Asylum Matters, Together With Refugees and others, we are able to strengthen national advocacy efforts while ensuring the voices and experiences of people in and around Brighton and Hove are reflected in wider debates. We also use our social media and communications platforms to share campaign messages, contribute to public awareness and encourage solidarity among our supporters and partners.

Local influencing and systems change

Alongside national campaigning, we focus strongly on influencing local policy, practice and attitudes to improve access to services and reduce the need for intensive one-to-one advocacy. Building on our long-standing relationships in Brighton & Hove, we work with statutory services, funders and local partners to highlight gaps in provision and propose achievable, evidence-based improvements.

This includes delivering training and sharing learning with housing services, the DWP, health providers and social care teams, as well as raising concerns and making complaints when systems are failing the people we support. By sharing anonymised case studies and lived experience insights, we help local services better understand the barriers faced by migrants at risk and how these can be removed.

Challenging racism and anti-migrant narratives

We are committed to challenging harmful narratives around migration and fostering empathy and understanding within our local community. Through events, forums, Refugee Week activities, public talks, newsletters and our impact reporting, we share human stories and practical learning about migration and integration.

We actively participate in local networks and forums, work alongside Brighton & Hove City Council on areas such as their Sanctuary Action Plan and their response to racism and hate-crime, and collaborate with community organisations to promote pro-migrant messages, tackle racism and support social cohesion.

What must change: our priorities for a fair asylum system

1. **End** harmful anti-immigration rhetoric in national policy debates
2. **Grant** the right to work
3. **Secure** the reintroduction of family reunification policies
4. **Provide** access to support services for domestic violence and domestic abuse survivors claims to be processed
5. **Increase** the provision of mental health support, especially for those fleeing war, trauma, and persecution
6. **Restore** and extend the refugee move-on period
7. **Create** safe and legal routes
8. **Provide** safe, secure and appropriate housing in our City of Sanctuary
9. **Guarantee** access to ESOL (English) classes
10. **Improve** the speed and quality of asylum decision-making



Meet Godwin: finding hope and support in Brighton

I first came to the UK three and a half years ago from India. It feels like only six months, the time has gone by so quickly.

My situation in my home country became unsafe and I was forced to leave and come to the UK. I was living in London at first, but I felt very isolated. I wanted to move somewhere where I could breathe, so I came to Brighton where I had a few friends who helped me find my feet.

“Voices gave me the confidence to keep going, get involved in activities and stay hopeful about the future.”

When I was looking for help, someone recommended Voices in Exile. Meeting them changed my life. At that time, I was preparing to become homeless because I could not work while waiting for a decision from the Home Office.

Voices helped me to find a safe place to stay through local hosting arrangements. I have now stayed with three different households, and each experience has been very positive.

While I wait for a decision, I am studying hairdressing and welding at Brighton MET college through a scheme for people in my situation. Voices gave me the confidence to keep going, get involved in activities and stay hopeful about the future.

Meet Betty: from volunteer to supporting families as a caseworker

I first started volunteering with Voices in Exile after supporting migrants in a similar role with the British Red Cross. I wanted to continue doing something practical to support people navigating the UK immigration system.

I am deeply concerned about the increasingly hostile environment around migration in the UK. As someone who came to the UK at 19 to study at university and then built my life here, I am very aware of my own privilege as a European migrant when it comes to freedom of movement. That awareness makes me feel strongly about standing in solidarity with people who are penalised by an inhumane immigration system simply because they were born elsewhere.

Volunteering with the Generalist team gave me a real insight into the challenges people face. Clients are often dealing with several issues at once, including housing, benefits, healthcare, food insecurity and immigration problems, so you quickly see how complex these situations can be.

“It is incredibly rewarding to support families from the moment they arrive in Brighton and help them settle into a new environment.”

It also taught me a lot about compassion and professionalism. Many people have experienced trauma before arriving in the UK and are then retraumatised by the systems they encounter here. You learn that you cannot fix everything, but you can focus on what support is available and help people understand their options.

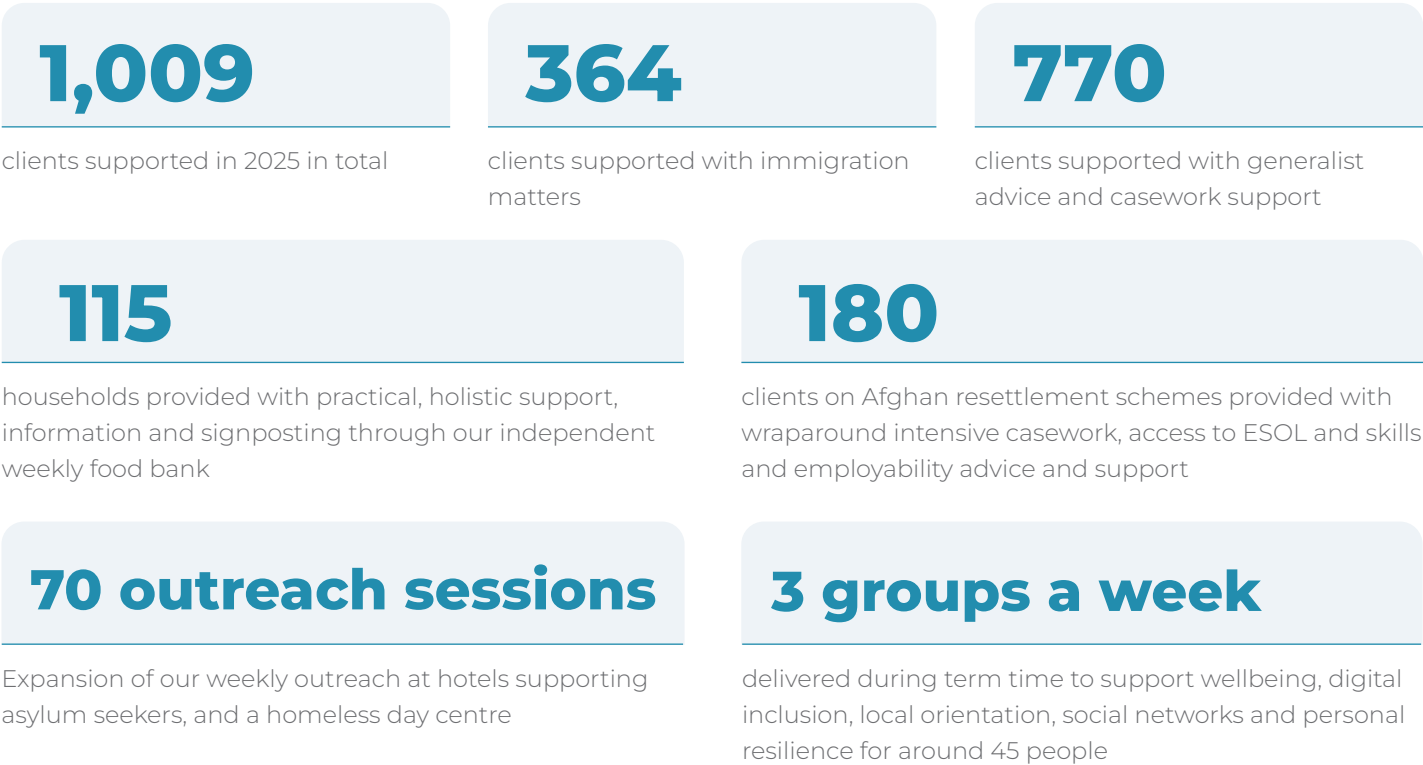
Today I work as a caseworker in the Resettlement team. It is incredibly rewarding to support families from the moment they arrive in Brighton and help them settle into a new environment. Over time you see their confidence grow as they learn English, navigate services and begin to build a life here.

Our impact in 2025

During the past year, Voices in Exile has continued to deliver essential support to refugees, asylum seekers and migrants at risk throughout Sussex.

Our work — ranging from immigration casework and homelessness prevention to employability training and policy advocacy — has had a significant, measurable impact on the communities we serve.

A year in review



Supporting clients from all corners of the world

In the past year, we've supported clients from 72 different countries located across all corners of the world.



Immigration support

As the only provider of IAA Level 2 immigration advice in the area, Voices in Exile faces sustained and growing demand. In 2025, the immigration advice team underwent a change in staffing and structure, from one full time adviser to three part time Level 2 immigration advisers and an advice and casework manager overseeing the whole advice service.

September 2025 was a particularly busy month with the start of our law student training programme. In partnership with the University of Sussex, we have launched a new three year immigration advice training programme at Voices for six students each year. The programme offers students hands on experience in the immigration advice sector, helping them develop office, digital and practical skills, including effective use of interpreters, interviewing clients, and supporting advisers with casework. This initiative strengthens the pipeline of future immigration advisers - an area where capacity is urgently needed.

This change in structure allows us to prioritise the provision of complex casework over one-off advice. We will never be able to meet the ever-increasing demands of the sector, but we hope that our processes ensure we use the capacity we have in the best way possible and are well placed to adapt and respond to the changing policy landscape.

Our immigration advice & casework service regularly and routinely supports people with:

- Applications for secure immigration status
- Reuniting with family in UK
- Applications on the basis of domestic violence
- Registration of children as British citizens
- Refugee and Home Office travel documents
- Lifting the 'no recourse to public funds' condition

Generalist advice and casework

The generalist team provides holistic advice, casework and outreach to address homelessness, destitution, benefits, safeguarding and access to healthcare, supporting service users to stabilise their situations and reduce crisis through advocacy and casework.

In 2025, we expanded our outreach service to attend more sessions, including at a homeless day centre. As a result, we are supporting many more people who are street homeless and engaging them in our service earlier than previously.

- **770** total cases in 2025, with 598 of them new.
- **£50,000** Glasspool hardship fund spending.
- **180** cases open at any one time.
- **34** benefits applications made.
- **178** people provided with housing support, the majority of which were street homeless.
- **Types of support** provided includes Benefits, Care Act, Financial Inclusion, Health and Wellbeing, Housing, Section 17 Children's Act, and Skills and Employability.

Food bank

The Voices in Exile culturally-informed food bank continues to offer support to people with no recourse to public funds and those experiencing financial hardship and additional vulnerabilities. Each person is assessed by a caseworker before joining the food bank so we can fully understand their circumstances. They receive 12 weeks' food bank support while we work with them to improve their financial circumstances.

- **c.115** households supported in 2025.
- **c.400** individuals supported by the food bank.
- **c.200** children supported with food provision.
- **c.10,000** meals provided to those in need.
- **30%** of food provided comes from donations.



Resettlement services

Funding from Brighton & Hove City Council enables us to provide two-year wraparound support for refugees arriving through the UK Resettlement Scheme and Afghan resettlement programmes. From the moment families arrive, our holistic casework helps them begin rebuilding their lives with safety, stability and dignity.

In 2025, we supported 167 people on Home Office resettlement programmes to settle in Brighton & Hove, including 12 new families. Many were relocated with very little notice, often after starting to settle elsewhere. Our immediate, personalised support, from stocking essential food and setting up utilities to orienting families around the city, helps people feel safe, welcomed, and less overwhelmed during a stressful transition.

A major achievement this year was ensuring every client who needed English lessons started within weeks of arrival, thanks to our in-house ESOL programme. Our three weekly ESOL classes cater for different levels and students are able to bring their pre-school children along. This means that we have removed the major barrier for many women we work with who had not previously been able to attend ESOL lessons due to their childcare responsibilities.



No other ESOL lessons in the city have built-in childcare, so our lessons are a vital way to get the women we work with to learn English, build confidence in travelling alone, make friendships and learn about childcare provision in the city.

We also delivered 1:1 home-based ESOL for four women unable to attend in person, with volunteers providing additional classroom support to ensure differentiated, confidence-building learning.

Alongside ESOL and other casework, we support adults to move towards employment by developing individual plans that include volunteering, training, CV writing and job-search support, helping them take practical steps toward long-term independence.

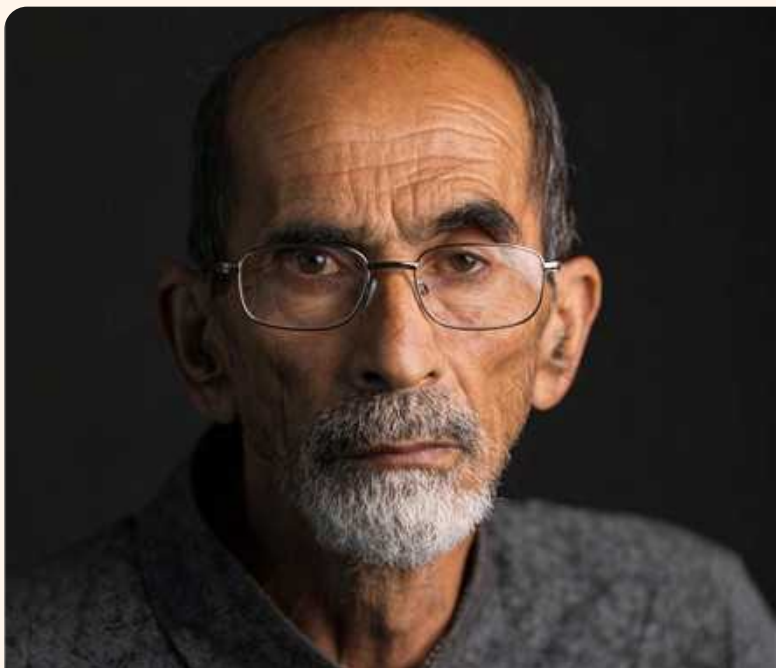
Meet Jang: building a new life and giving back

I came to the UK in 2022 and settled in Brighton with my family. When we first arrived, everything felt new and unfamiliar. Voices in Exile provided us with important support and introduced us to many of the services we needed.

Voices helped us in many ways. They offered English language classes and introduced us to the Groups where we could meet people and learn more about life here. They also supported us with practical issues such as the immigration process, problems with the bank and other family matters. Guidance from the Resettlement team and the Generalist team made complicated systems easier to understand.

These experiences made a big difference to our lives. They helped us become more familiar with our new surroundings and build connections with other people.

The most important thing for me is that I'm safe here. I have started a new life. I am learning English, working and earning money, and I try to stay healthy by going to the gym. In the future I want to help people and support my community. I believe in respecting the culture of others and building good relationships with your neighbours.



How our group programme makes a difference



Our group work plays a vital role in supporting the wellbeing, confidence and integration of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants. For many participants, these groups are not just a place to learn or access information, but a rare space where they feel safe, welcomed and less alone at a time when everyday life is shaped by insecurity, trauma and isolation.

Delivered through weekly ESOL & Orientation sessions and wellbeing-focused group activities, the groups combine practical learning with peer connection, creativity and gentle wellbeing activities. We run three sessions a week, facilitated by staff and volunteers with lived experience of migration, creating trusted, culturally informed environments where people feel understood and able to participate at their own pace.

A core impact of the programme is reducing isolation and strengthening emotional wellbeing. Many people join feeling disconnected from others, anxious about navigating life in the UK, and hesitant to engage with services. Through consistent, predictable sessions, participants build relationships, develop a sense of belonging, and gain confidence in everyday communication and decision-making. This connection is particularly important for people who are excluded from mainstream mental health support due to language barriers, uncertain immigration status or lack of digital access.

Alongside peer support, the groups improve wellbeing by addressing the practical stressors that drive distress. Embedded within Voices in Exile's wider support pathways, group members can be referred into one-to-one casework for housing, benefits, immigration advice or destitution support. This holistic approach helps people feel more stable, supported and able to focus on their wellbeing, rather than navigating systems alone.

In 2025, we delivered 132 group sessions, supporting around 45 regular participants each term. Outcomes reported by participants show strong wellbeing impact:

- **90%** felt more connected to others in their community
- **92%** improved their local knowledge of Brighton & Hove
- **95%** reported improved confidence in English
- **90%** wanted to return again the following term

Participants also reported improved confidence accessing services, stronger social networks, and increased optimism about their future. Many progressed into volunteering, education or wider community activities, building a sense of purpose and belonging beyond the group itself.



By offering trusted spaces for connection, learning and mutual support, and by integrating group work with practical advice and advocacy, our groups support mental wellbeing early, reduce the risk of crisis, and help people rebuild confidence, resilience and hope as they settle into life in the city.



The power of our volunteers

Volunteers are central to Voices in Exile, bringing skills, compassion, and lived experience that strengthen every part of our work.

Their support allows us to reach more people, respond quickly, and offer care that would not be possible without them. Volunteering also builds confidence, skills, friendships, and, for many, a pathway into training or employment. We have around 50 volunteers actively engaged across the organisation.

Food bank

13 volunteers manage deliveries, stocking, parcel preparation, and client welcome, supported by additional drivers.

Finance

2 volunteers support gift aid, petty cash, and admin, gaining experience with systems like Xero.

Drivers & practical

5 volunteers collect and deliver essentials and assist with furniture assembly and office tasks.

Welcome & orientation

8 volunteers provide peer and language support, particularly for Afghan newcomers.

Admin support

1 longstanding volunteer supports website updates, conducts research, and helps with events.

Communications

3 volunteers help with social media, newsletters, events, and website development.

Resettlement

6 volunteers provide one-to-one English support; another assists with practical tasks.

ESOL classroom

13 volunteers support our qualified ESOL teachers with one-to-one and small group English learning.

Generalist advice

5 volunteers support casework and strengthen relationships with external organisations.

Immigration team

2 volunteers assist under supervision and are working toward IAA Level 1.

Together, volunteers contributed around 5,500 hours of support in 2025, worth approximately £80,000.



Meet Houda: finding confidence and purpose through volunteering

I first came to the UK in 1992. A friend later told me about Voices in Exile when I was looking for a volunteering opportunity, so I decided to get involved.

Being part of Voices has helped me in many ways. My English language has become more fluent, my confidence has grown, and my social life has improved. I love helping people and it makes me feel good to support others.

“Working with Voices in Exile increased my confidence, improved my English skills and helped me rebuild my social life.”

Sue, the participation and engagement officer, also helped me to enrol on an interpreting course, which I have benefited from greatly. Through Voices, I have been able to build a healthy routine and work alongside friendly colleagues.

Today I feel more productive both at home and in my community. Volunteering has helped me feel happy, valued and important at my age.

When I first started, I was feeling lonely and depressed. Working with Voices in Exile increased my confidence, improved my English language and helped me rebuild my social life.

Now I feel proud to be part of the team, and being involved has made me very happy.



Meet Grant: a long-standing volunteer in our community

Earlier in my career I worked as a civil engineer in roads and highways, with projects around the world. Later I decided to change direction and work more directly with people.

I became a community support worker, first supporting people experiencing homelessness and later working with adults with autism and learning disabilities. Both roles were fulfilling and sometimes challenging.

About fifteen years ago I came across Voices in Exile while accompanying someone from a homelessness charity to an immigration advice appointment. I was struck by how efficiently the team handled the case and the support they provided, and I remember thinking I would like to be involved one day.

Since 2017 I have been volunteering with Voices in different roles. I have supported basic English sessions, mentored newly arrived families with my wife, delivered food parcels during the Covid lockdown and now volunteer with the food bank team on Mondays.

Food bank mornings can be busy, but there is always a friendly atmosphere. I value the chance to listen to people, offer advice within my role and help signpost them to the support they need.

Over the years I have built many friendships with staff, volunteers and service users. One family we mentored now has UK citizenship and their children are progressing through education. I really do love volunteering with Voices in Exile.

2025: financial overview

At Voices in Exile, we ensure that every pound we receive directly supports our service users. As demand for our services grows, we are committed to financial sustainability, expanding our funding sources, and strengthening partnerships to ensure we can continue this vital work.

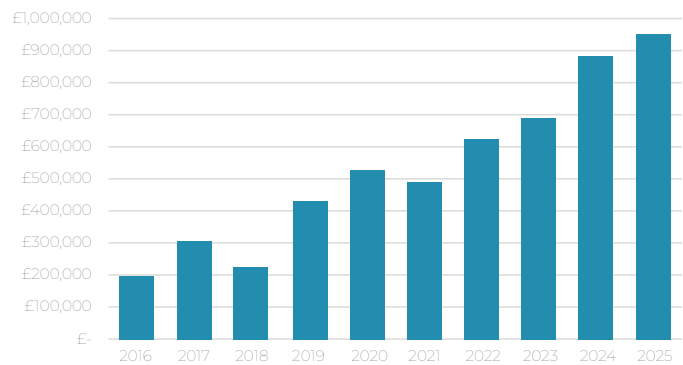
Where our funding comes from:

Income	2025	2024
Grants and Trusts	£317,670	£320,013
Local Authority Contract	£572,806	£448,085
Individual Donations	£14,013	£15,604
Other Donations	£12,653	£46,131
Investments	£19,868	£20,974
Other Income	£23,435	£24,011
Total	£960,445	£874,819

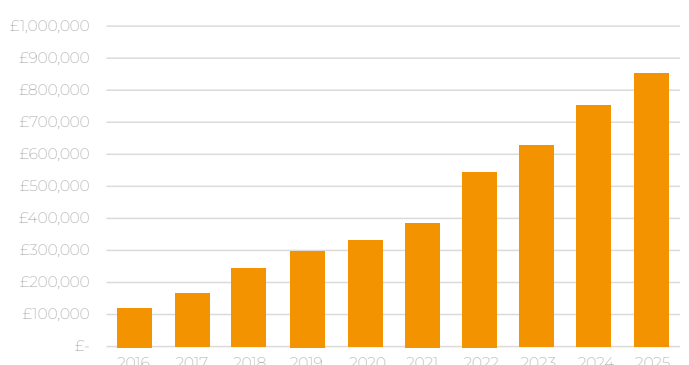
How we use our funds:

Expenses	2025	2024
Staffing	£559,857	£532,267
Interpreting	£38,029	£41,154
Other Direct Costs	£151,374	£112,394
Premises Costs	£11,576	£11,413
Other Operating Expenses	£87,492	£49,448
Total	£848,328	£746,676

Income:

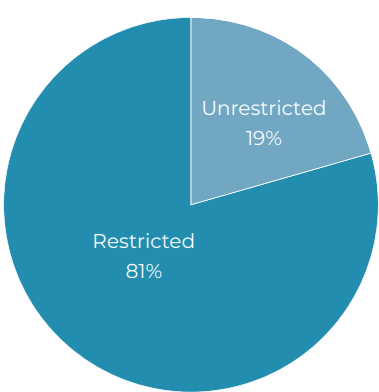


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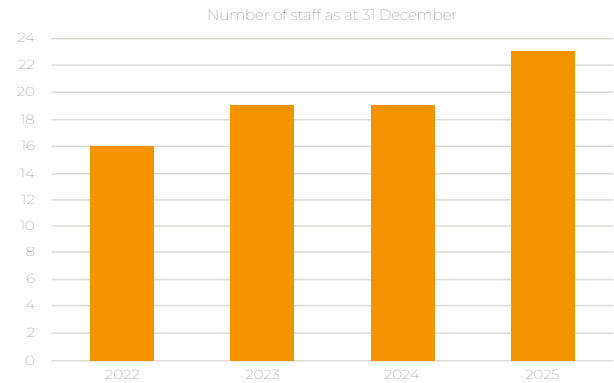


We ended 2025 with an in-year surplus of £112K, and £978K carried forward to 2026 (£417k of which is unrestricted)

Restricted income:



Our growing team:



Meet Sergio: Finding dignity and support

I first came to the UK in 1995. But it was only last year that I found Voices in Exile, after my partner passed away and I needed help.

I was in a very difficult situation. I was grieving, struggling with my immigration status and unsure how to move forward. A friend helped me find Voices online and encouraged me to contact them.

From the moment I arrived, they supported me with everything. They helped me with my immigration situation, with applying for Universal Credit, and even supported me during my partner's funeral. They also helped me with food when I needed it most.

“The most important thing for me was simple. Someone cared about me. I felt it.”

But the most important thing for me was simple. Someone cared about me. I felt it.

When I first came to Voices, I was in a very dark place and struggling with my mental health. The team listened, supported me and helped me find the right services.



Slowly, I began to regain my confidence. Today I feel stronger and more hopeful about the future. I've got my dignity back and I feel like I have the same rights as everyone else. If someone is struggling, my advice is simple: go to Voices in Exile. They will help you find the right path forward.



Get involved: join our community of support

Every day, people come to Voices in Exile seeking safety, stability, and a sense of belonging. You can be part of the community that makes this possible.

Whether you give your time, share your skills, or make a donation, your support strengthens our work and transforms lives. Whatever you can offer - big or small - truly makes a difference.

Volunteer with us

Volunteers are vital to everything we do. When you volunteer with Voices in Exile, you're not just giving time - you're offering welcome, dignity, and hope to people rebuilding their lives.

Whether you're helping to sort food bank donations, supporting someone to attend an appointment, mentoring a new arrival, or lending your skills in admin, communications, or groups, your presence has real impact. Our volunteers tell us they gain new skills, confidence, friendships, and a deeper connection to their community.

You can explore current opportunities, or get in touch to tell us how you'd like to help:

volcoordinator@voicesinexile.org
voicesinexile.org/volunteering

Make a regular donation

A monthly donation - no matter how big or small - helps us plan ahead and provide consistent, long-term support to those in need. Regular giving ensures we can continue providing essential services, from legal advice to food aid and emergency housing support.

Make a donation: voicesinexile.org/donate



Scan me to donate

Fundraise for us

Taking on a challenge? Planning a workplace fundraiser? Celebrating a birthday or milestone?

Your fundraising can directly support refugees, asylum seekers, and vulnerable migrants during some of the most difficult moments of their lives.

From marathons and sponsored walks to bake sales and community events, every initiative helps us keep our services open and accessible to those who need them most.

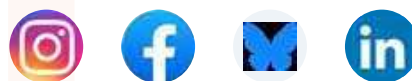
If you'd like ideas or support with planning your event, we're here to help.

Reach out at administrator@voicesinexile.org to discuss.

Help us raise awareness

Even if you're unable to give time or money, you can still support us by raising awareness. Follow us on social media, share our content, and sign up for our newsletter to stay informed about our work and help spread the word.

Follow us on social media:



Scan me to sign up for our newsletter

Theory of change

MISSION



TO improve access to services and entitlements

FOR refugees, asylum seekers and migrants at risk

THROUGH the exercise of rights, advocacy and social inclusion

ACTIVITIES

WE OFFER

- immigration advice and casework
- generalist advice and casework, including outreach
- volunteering
- group work for English practice, orientation, information and wellbeing
- skills and employability casework and advice
- destitution, food bank and information provision

WE WORK TO

- amplify the voices of those with lived experience
- educate the public about the issues affecting asylum seekers and refugees
- influence the development of more inclusive policy and practice

OUTCOMES

FOR CLIENTS

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☒ progress towards secure immigration status | ☒ ability to be heard and to influence |
| ☒ reunited with family | ☒ improved employability |
| ☒ accommodation secured | ☒ improved English language skills |
| ☒ accessed healthcare | ☒ improved community support networks |
| ☒ improved knowledge of rights and entitlements | ☒ improved health and wellbeing |

REGIONALLY & NATIONALLY

- improved awareness of migrant needs
- changes and improvements in law, policy and practice
- effective partnerships



IMPACT

for refugees, asylum seekers and migrants at risk



SOCIAL JUSTICE



POSITIVE WELLBEING



IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE

Thank you to our community

As we close this report, we want to express our deepest gratitude to everyone who makes our work possible. Your dedication, generosity, and compassion enable us to stand alongside people when they need support the most.

To our staff

Thank you for your dedication, expertise, and tireless work. Your compassion and resilience strengthen the impact of our work every day.

To our volunteers and trustees

Thank you for sharing your time, skills, and kindness. Your commitment creates the warmth, welcome, and connection that define our community.

To our fundraisers and supporters

Thank you for standing with us - whether you have donated, fundraised, attended an event, or helped spread the word about our work. Your support keeps our services open, our advocacy strong, and hope alive for the people we serve.

To our partners and community organisations

Thank you for standing alongside us - collaborating, referring, sharing knowledge, and advocating for system-wide change. Together, we are stronger, louder, and better able to meet the needs of the people we serve.

We would like to recognise the following organisations whose support was especially significant in 2025:

- A B Charitable Trust
 - Austin and Hope Pilkington
 - Awards for All (Lottery)
 - Beauty Banks
 - Bosham Meeting Point
 - Bright Interactive
 - Brighton Bretheren
 - Brighton and Hove Buses
 - Brighton and Hove City Council
 - Brighton and Hove Food Partnership
 - Brighton and Hove Methodist Circuit
 - Brighton and Hove Progressive Synagogue
- Charities Aid Foundation
 - Desklodge
 - Enjoolata Foundation
 - Eurocarb Ltd
 - Fareshare
 - Garfield Weston Foundation
 - Glasspool Charity Trust
 - Goat Grid
 - Infinity Foods
 - Lloyds Bank Foundation
 - LOSRAS
 - Methodist Church Fund for Human Need
 - Much Loved
 - Naccomm
- Paul Hamlyn Foundation
 - Pelican Parcels
 - Saltdean Primary School
 - South East Strategic Partnership for Migration
 - South East Dance
 - St Georges Community Centre
 - St Joseph's & St John The Baptist (East Brighton Parish)
 - St Luke's Primary School
 - St Mary's Church Speldhurst
 - The Methodist Church
 - The Pebble Trust

And most of all, to the people we support

Thank you for your trust. Thank you for your courage. And thank you for allowing us to walk part of your journey with you. Your strength inspires everything we do.