

MOOL Annual Report Mar 2018 – Feb 2019

Massive Outpouring of Love (MOOL) -SCIO: SC046366

The year has seen some major projects completed and we have begun to explore some new areas of work which will be increasingly important over time.

Our work in sorting clothes and sending aid has continued throughout the year. We have carried on taking and sorting donated clothes, adding messages of love and support and, in collaboration with some wonderful partner agencies we have been able to send our aid to people on the refugee road in France, Serbia, Greece and the Lebanon.



We've also continued to partner with Independent Living Service, Alcohol and Drugs Service and the Women's Aid to help locally displaced people who have been given housing but little else with furniture, carpets and other donated items. We're now looking to expand the people we're working with through other local agencies.

We've helped to bring 8 new families here through the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme. This has meant preparing the houses, ensuring that, when people arrive, they feel not only accommodated but welcomed. Our volunteers sort out carpeting and painting when needed, fit curtains and blinds – helped by the experience we've built up of what is needed by the families who come here. Also, because they are the people they are, our volunteers leave toys and presents for the children and various other small touches to help people feel recognised and welcomed. Many of the befrienders who help the families get to know the area and its facilities are drawn from our volunteers and we offer help with informal conversational English to them as well.

Some of our focus has shifted to working to create a vibrant, open and diverse local community which will include and celebrate the different cultures we have here. This is likely to become more important as the VPRS scheme comes to an end in March 2020 and the importance of ongoing work with the families who've already arrived will come to the fore.

Three major events/projects are outlined below.

Education and Outreach Project – funded by Investing in Ideas



In considering potential changes in focus we have been helped by a project, funded by Investing in Ideas. Through the year we mounted a major survey of local attitudes to migrants, asylum seekers, refugees and others who move into the area. This was combined with a number of sessions which our volunteers ran in local schools. Our aim was to encourage students to think about the reasons that people come here and the benefits they bring.

We also used our “MOOL Spirit Awards” event in October to talk to the families themselves about ways that we could build social bridges between them and the local community.

The culmination of the project was a symposium held in Dumfries in November. With approximately 80 people in attendance it was a chance to share the findings from the year’s work in education and outreach and in gathering the views of the local community on incomers, refugees, migrants and asylum seekers.

The symposium brought together people from a wide range of organisations with influence or interest in the way the region deals with refugees. The event produced some really useful ideas for ways for initiatives, some of which we hope to initiate over the next few months. One of the main messages which we took from the project overall is that there is a need to build up the local community itself. Many of the people responding to the survey and at the symposium felt the lack of community spirit in general. We will hope to find ways to improve this for both locals and those who have come to the region.

We are now developing a more formal education and outreach programme which we hope to take into schools in the near future.

Moving Stories – funded by Regional Arts Fund



One of the highlights of the year saw a collaboration between photographer Kim Ayres, composer Lucy Renwick, choir director Kate Howard and our founder Moxie DePaulitte. The project began with a plan by Kim and Moxie to create an exhibition featuring a soundscape based on recorded interviews to be played alongside a series of photographs. The aim was to open people's eyes to the humanity of all the sorts of people who've made their homes in Dumfries and Galloway from other places. Lucy Renwick came up with a proposal for a song cycle based around the interviews and a Regional Arts Fund grant from Dumfries and Galloway council enabled a choir to be formed with Kate Howard as its director. Between them Moxie and Lucy created a piece which used songs alongside a spoken narrative powerfully conveying some of the experiences of those on the refugee road.

Despite very little time to prepare the choir gave 5 very well received performances during Refugee week. We travelled across the region over the week and afterwards were able to create a CD

There are now plans to create an ongoing community choir to sing world music and we hope to combine with choirs in various refugee camps around the world. We see this as one way in which to build the local community as well as spread awareness outwards to those elsewhere.

In February Moxie DePaulitte, our founder was nominated for a Humanitarian award from the Shelia McKechnie Foundation. As someone who got through the first round, she was invited to pitch for a grant which she did very successfully, resulting in a grant which will be used to fund the Community Choir and camp link ups.

Volunteer Meeting – funded by Impact Funding



In February we ran a special meeting for our volunteers to explore ways to improve both the experience of our volunteers and the ways we offer them to contribute. We had an excellent afternoon which produced some brilliant ideas for further work as well as a number of volunteers coming forward to take on particular roles including fundraising, website development and a newsletter.

Calendar of events

March 2018

Open Day



In March we opened up new offices in the heart of Dumfries. Rented in a temporary basis they gave us an opportunity to test how much difference having a proper office be with the capacity to host meetings and various gatherings. We held a very successful open day party which, in itself demonstrated the potential of the space. We were only able to fund the rent for three months however.

PB voting process



We took part in the participatory budget process across Dumfries and Galloway. Doing so involved a great deal of work and commitment but enabled us to reach and talk to people in areas of the county who had never heard of us or who were unaware of the issues, or in some cases the very existence of refugees in the region.

Human Flow



We ran a sell-out showing of Ai Weiwei's film, "Human Flow"

Twiddle Aids workshop



We were delighted to be able to host a "twiddle aid" making workshop. These aids for the sufferers of dementia are small craft objects designed to occupy the hands and calm the mind. Making them is a light craft activity which enables people to relax together and allows conversation to flow without awkwardness.

May

AGM



In May we held our AGM at the Stove. It was an opportunity to go over how much had been achieved over the year. We also amended our Constitution to allow paid employees to be a part of the board although not post holders.

June

Moving Stories

Please see above

Eden Festival



Two of our volunteers ran a very successful stall at the Eden Festival. They raised awareness of the plight of those on the refugee road and recruited new volunteers.

August

Electric Fields



In August we ran another successful outreach operation at Electric Fields. At the end of the festival, thanks to the help of the organisers and their clean-up crew we were able to gather a large number of abandoned tents and sleeping bags to send to France.

September



Cathy Cassidy supported MOOL with a talk at the Theatre Royal Dumfries on her new book “Sami’s Silver Lining”. The money from her event was used to help send our aid out to through Re-Act later in the year.

October

Mool Spirit Awards



The MOOL spirit awards were a wonderful chance to celebrate some of the great work which our volunteers have been doing. We hosted an evening at the Lochside family centre.

Not only was it a lovely chance to recognise the fantastic work which our volunteers do but it was also a great social occasion to which many of the restyled families came so that they had the chance to meet some of those who’d made their accommodation into welcoming homes as well as the people who befriend them and who helping them with learning English.

We used the occasion to build on the work of the survey to consult with the new arrivals on ways to build links between the existing community and those who arrive here.

Dumfries & Galloway Life Awards 2018

For the third year running we were nominated for an award in the Voluntary Group/Charity of the Year category in the 2018 Dumfries & Galloway Life Awards. This time we came away with “Specially Commended”.

November

Pop-up shop



A group of volunteers set up a pop up clothes shop in Dalbeattie. It was very successful, both in reminding people of what we are about and in raising funds from donated clothing which was inappropriate for the camps.

Symposium

Please see above.

February

Volunteer meeting

Please see above.

Partner organisations

We've continued to build links with all sorts of organisations both locally here in Dumfries and Galloway and beyond. Some of these are listed below.

Family Centre Lochside – we've been delighted to be involved in some of the planning meetings for the Family Centre which will be important in helping some of the women from the new families to take part in events where childcare might otherwise be a problem.

Lochside is Families Together – a local group helping to build a strong community.

YMCA – The YMCA have, since March, taken over Lochside Primary School and we have taken offices in what is becoming a very important and vibrant community hub.

Independent Living Service - Helping people who have been rehoused after homelessness. We work with them to give access to furniture and other household items.

Alcohol and Drugs Service – In a similar way to the ILS we work with them to give access to furniture and other household items.

Scottish Action for Refugees - Helping to get our donations overseas to the camps beyond France.

The Brink – We have sent a small donation to help the work that these people are doing to document the experiences of refugees and migrants in South America

Re-Act – Helping to get our donations overseas to the camps beyond France.

Mobile Refugee Support – We have been able to send a small donation to help this group with the excellent work they do with people on the refugee road in France.

Carlisle Refugee Action Group - We have very close links with this group who have helped us throughout the year to get clothing and supplies to refugees in Calais and Dunkirk

First Base Food Agency– We work closely with First Base Food Agency, the Dumfries Food Bank to help all kinds of displaced people.

Women's Aid - In a similar way to the ILS we work with them to give access to furniture and other household items.

The image shows four handwritten signatures and dates on a document. The signatures are in red and black ink. The dates are in black ink. The text is as follows:

Al Mhi
17-06-2019
LASSAAD SBITA
Trustee.

D. P. J. ...
17/6/19
Trustee

Laura Moodie
17.6.19
LAURA MOODIE
SECRETARY / TRUSTEE

J. Rubenstein
J. RUBINSTEIN
17/6/19

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Mool is governed by a constitution which was last updated in May 2018 and is available on the web at <https://www.mool.scot/mool-constitution-may-2018/>

Purposes

4 The organisation's purposes are:

4.1 To relieve the needs of displaced persons, refugees or asylum seekers from the countries of their origin or domicile by reason of hostilities, persecution, oppressions, discrimination, natural disasters, economic adversity or other, like causes and to provide assistance to the families and dependents of persons who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress and to provide and disseminate information to displaced persons in Dumfries & Galloway on the provision of education, employment, health, housing, social and other services of and to those persons and their families; and dependents.

4.2 To promote religious or racial harmony by encouraging integration and active cultural participation through involvement with MOOL.

4.3 For the benefit of the public, to advance education and to promote the relief of poverty, the advancement of human rights and the promotion of equality and diversity in Dumfries & Galloway.

Reference and administration details

Charity name

Massive Outpouring of Love (MOOL)

Other names charity is known by

MOOL

Registered charity number

SC46366

Charity's principal address

Plunton House

Borgue

Kirkcudbright, Dumfries & Galloway

Postcode DG6 4SP

Appointment/retiral 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.

At the conclusion of the first AGM, one third (to the nearest round number) of the charity trustees shall retire from office; the question of which of them is to retire shall be determined by some random method.

At the conclusion of each AGM (other than the first), one third of charity trustees (to the nearest round number) shall retire from office.

The charity trustees to retire under clause 20 shall be those who choose to stand down, or be determined by some random method.

A charity trustee who retires from office under clause 20 at the conclusion of an AGM shall be eligible for re-appointment under clause 18 at the next board meeting.

A charity trustee vacating office at the conclusion of an AGM will be deemed to have been re-elected at the board meeting which next follows unless:

he/she advises the board that he/she does not wish to be re-appointed; or

a resolution for the re-appointment of that charity trustee was put to the board meeting and was not carried.

Names of the charity trustees on date of approval of Trustees' Annual Report

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Laura Moodie	Secretary		
2	Jay Rubinstein			
3	Roman DePaulitte	Chair		
4	David Formstone			
5	Abdulrahman Jubahji	Treasurer		
6	Lassaad Sbita		18/6/18	
7	Michael Moore		18/6/18	
8	Melissa Kjaergaard		18/6/18 -15/9/18	
9				
10	Moxie DePaulitte (shadow trustee)			

Mool Policy on Reserves

Mool's activities are largely volunteer driven and as such require little expenditure on behalf of the charity. However there are two part-time employees and while their employment has largely been supported by specific project-based grants the charity would want to be confident that it can supply their wages for a further period if necessary.

Mool does not, at the time of writing, have any rent or service costs to consider apart from the provision of internet access at the depot and maintenance of a website. Potentially however the charity could take on premises which will require the payment of rent and/or service costs.

Mool will maintain reserves in unrestricted funds sufficient to meet the cost of three months wages and other costs.