

# Borderline

## Annual Report 2005



1990 - 2005



**BORDERLINE**

SUPPORTING HOMELESS  
SCOTS IN LONDON

## Trustees

Chairman	Elizabeth Fox Rev Barry Dunsmore Gill Findlay (from July 2005) Audrey McNair Alan Mackie Bruce Macpherson Rev Sigrid Marten Susan Mathewson (to April 2005) Ian Robertson Rev Forbes Walker Betsy Wilkie
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The Trustees also form the Management Committee of Borderline

## Staff

Director	Eileen Ward
Client Services Manager	Murdo Maciver
Advice Workers	Caroline Bradshaw Mark Murton
Bookkeeper/Administrator	Catherine Rodgers

## Bankers

The Royal Bank of Scotland plc

## Auditors

Daniels & Co.

## Investment Advisers

UBS

Borderline is run by COSLAS, the Church of Scotland London Advisory Service.

## Our Anniversary



Borderline has been supporting homeless and insecurely housed Scots in London throughout its 15 year existence. The Church of Scotland has, of course, been helping Scots in London since the arrival of James VI and I in 1603, but Borderline has its origins in the Caledonian Christian Club and the Church of Scotland London Advisory Service, which originally sought to help young Scots who arrived in London to take up jobs. As economic circumstances changed, the Trustees of COSLAS had the foresight to adapt its services when it was realised that those Scots most in need were those who arrived in London without a job.

One thing that has not changed over the last 15 years is the fact that people continue to need our services. Indeed, it is with regret that I have to report that, year by year, more and more demand is being placed on Borderline's services. Each month we still see new clients, despite the message we try to spread in Scotland that the streets of London are not paved with gold.

Providing the best service we can to a client can take many hours of one of our Advice Workers' time. It can

also involve our Bookkeeper/Administrator arranging for a copy Birth Certificate and our Client Services Manager being called upon for more expert advice. There are also far more homeless people in the Capital than there are beds available, so trying to find someone a bed for the night can often be a fruitless task.

We also continue to battle for funding. The Borderline staff has been particularly busy over the past few months as we have had to make our bid for future funding from the Scottish Executive. Donations, however large or small, are always of great value, and Borderline is most appreciative of the support it receives from many church and social groups and from charitable trusts and companies.

I should like to thank you all for your support for our work and look forward to your continuing that support as we try to support those Scots who find themselves in need on London's streets.

**Elizabeth P Fox**  
**Chairman**

## Our year



Here's how we've worked to fund and develop our services in the most recent of our fifteen years supporting homeless and insecurely housed Scots in London.

**Eileen J Ward,  
Director**

### January - March

Caroline attends a Resettlement Course – keeping up to date with good practice and meeting colleagues. Resettlement is a vital part of Borderline's work. We enjoy the Burns' Night Supper at St Columba's Church – it's a great night as usual, and we raise over £1500.

### April - June

We recruit a new Client Services Manager, Murdo, who's just finished working as a Project Manager on the Winter Night Shelters. Murdo's from Stornoway and has lots of experience with single homeless people. Eileen visits Edinburgh for a Fundraising Forum and visits projects including the Scottish Social Networks Forum, focusing on the importance of positive social networks in the prevention of homelessness and in successful resettlement. Borderline Trustees and friends raise funds for us in the Great Scottish Walk - our Trustees help us in many ways.

### July - September

We catch up with the Royal Caledonian Schools Trust – we are always looking for new ways of working together with other Scottish organisations in London. Eileen attends the Lunnainn Alba AGM – the Tartan Army in London are very faithful supporters. We prepare our funding bid for the Scottish Executive for 2006 – 2009. We're very grateful for the constant support we get from the Executive; we reflect on what we've achieved in the last three years and plan for the future. We're delighted to have a stall at the Voluntary Action Westminster 40th Anniversary AGM. We receive many enquires, renew old friendships and make new contacts. It's good to be part of our local community.

### October - December

Eileen and Murdo attend the Scottish Council for Single Homelessness National Conference – meeting up with colleagues from the voluntary and public sectors north of the border. We're invited to Fife and Dundee to discuss rent deposit schemes. The whole team attends the Annual Service of Commemoration at St Martin-in-the-Fields Church for those who have died homeless in the past year. We take part in a debate about Soup Runs in Westminster. We prepare this Annual Report and hope for a good response to our Christmas Appeal to sustain our work in the coming year.



*The Borderline stall at VAW's  
40th Anniversary AGM*

## Our Funding

There are lots of ways you can help Borderline - we're always happy to give you advice on fundraising, or you might like to follow these examples:

### *giftaid it*

Using Gift Aid means that for every pound you give, Borderline get an extra 28 pence from the Inland Revenue, helping your donation go further. This means that £100 can be turned into £128, just so long as donations are made through Gift Aid. Imagine what a difference that could make, and it doesn't cost a thing. For a Gift Aid form, please see contact details below

Borderline held Flag Days at Victoria and Southwark stations – come and bang a bucket for us on St Andrew's Day in 2006. Thanks to all who volunteered this year.

Hold a sock Harvest! We're very grateful to the congregations of Crown Court and St Columba's Churches in London who generously donated socks, scarves, hats and gloves to help our clients keep warm this winter.

Share your success: Helen Bowater of Lunnainn Alba donated the prize she was awarded by her employer for passing a series of examinations.



*Sandy celebrates his victory*

make a Borderline team in 2006.

Please consider payroll giving – any employee or pensioner taxed through PAYE can donate to any charitable

organisation in the UK. Giving direct from your payroll is very simple. You can give as much as you like and donations are tax free. Contact us for details.



*Sandy Macpherson, Christopher McCabe, Bruce Macpherson and Christine Esson.  
Photo taken by fellow walker, Audrey McNair*

Leaving a Legacy to Borderline in your will would help secure the future of numerous individuals. Such a gift is free of tax, and could reduce the inheritance tax paid on your estate. We also welcome gifts of shares and securities. We'd be happy to give you more information.

### Other ways of helping our clients

Borderline is very grateful for support received on behalf of individual clients. For example, St Columba's Benevolence Committee helped Shirley buy a kettle, microwave and toaster for her new flat. The Royal Scottish Corporation bought Steve a pair of work boots so he could start work on a building site.

Scotland's most famous detective is on Borderline's case! Award winning crime writer Ian Rankin generously gave Borderline a donation via John Rebus Limited, named in honour of his excellent detective.

For more details about how you can help, or to send a donation, please contact us: Visit our website at [www.borderline-uk.org](http://www.borderline-uk.org); email us on [office@borderline-uk.org](mailto:office@borderline-uk.org); phone 0845 456 2190, fax 0845 456 2199 or write to us at Borderline, 7/9 Belgrave Road, London SW1V 1QB.

Thank you

## Our history

"A Scottish home for providing kindly welcome, temporary lodgings, protection, direction and helpfulness to fresh arrivals in London" was the aim of the Rev William Burton Alexander, Minister of Whitefield Presbyterian Church, Drury Lane as he guaranteed a loan to open premises for the Caledonian Christian Club at 5 Southampton Street, Bloomsbury on 9th December 1887.<sup>1</sup>

The Club continued to function as a residence throughout the Second World War and beyond, but by the 1960s "it became clear that fewer young Scots were coming to London to work" so the Club was sold and the money used to endow work with young Scots in London.

This included an arrangement with the Beacon Hostel in Castle Street in London Victoria for priority booking facilities and a room for the Resource Worker, "a resourceful person under 40 [who would] contact and welcome young people from Scotland and ... enable them to become established within the Scottish Christian Community in London".



*Moderator's visit 1990:  
The Right Revd Robert and Mrs Davidson*

In 1986 the Directors decided that the name Caledonian Christian Club no longer properly represented the work and services now performed, and so, in 1987, the Church of Scotland London Advisory Service came into being; its primary purpose being to provide support and assistance to young single Scots who moved to London to work or to study.

Over the years many people have unstintingly given of their time and energy as trustees. The services offered are constantly reviewed in response to the needs of the time. One of the major concerns in London in the 1980s and 90s was the problem of rough sleeping, and in 1989 the trustees responded to the recommendations of Christine Traill (then key worker) with "a proposal to help young Scots in London"<sup>2</sup> which became the Borderline project in 1990.

On 28 December 1990 the Glasgow Guardian reported Christine Traill's comment that young Scots often found themselves homeless in London because "they come completely unprepared, with very little money in their pocket, no contacts, with a very naïve view of London, still believing the streets are paved with gold, there's lots of money, lots of jobs."

In its fifteen year history, Borderline has undertaken many projects to help clients, such as a partnership with Alone in London and New to London to help young people return home to an improved situation by offering positive support, information and advice and by promoting family mediation as a key tool in the prevention of homelessness.

Our unique position, our knowledge of homelessness and housing in London and in Scotland and our many contacts mean that we can work with each individual client to find the best way forward for that person, either in London or back 'up the road'.



*The Reverend Sandy Cairns, a former trustee, chats to a client, Ian*

For our 10th Anniversary, Borderline secured funding to commission a research report from the Department of Urban Studies at Glasgow University. The introduction thanked “the homeless and formerly homeless Scots who told their stories so candidly and bravely”.

The report showed that the two greatest priorities of the homeless Scots interviewed were accommodation followed by financial assistance and that accommodation needs fell into two categories: “good quality, affordable accommodation..... and high quality supported accommodation of various kinds for those .....with greater difficulties.”<sup>3</sup>

In these 15 years both national and local governments have changed and developed their policies with regard to rough sleeping and homelessness. Borderline welcomes those initiatives that directly and indirectly help our clients and remains aware of the difficulties many people still face. We applaud partner agencies such as Scottish Churches Housing Action who welcome the Scottish Executive’s progressive legislation and call for the Executive to set a target to develop at least 10,000 new or improved homes at affordable rents each year for the next five years.

Within the framework of a changing society and a rapidly developing world, **Borderline’s primary objectives** remain

- To reduce homelessness and prevent rough sleeping
- To prevent homelessness wherever possible
- To access a wide range of accommodation options for our clients
- To ensure clients have access to appropriate specialist help
- To assist those who wish to return home to Scotland to do so

For fifteen years and into the future, the most important people are our clients. On the back cover of this Report you’ll hear what they have to say about our work – we hope you will help us to continue helping our clients to find a decent home at a price they can afford.

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1. Twenty Thousand Welcomes, The first hundred years of The Caledonian Christian Club 1887 – 1986, The Church of Scotland London Advisory Service 1987 by Ian Grant Gilbert M.A.
  2. Minutes of the COSLAS Directors Meeting 12 December 1989.
  3. Homeless Scots in London: Experiences, Needs and Aspirations: Department of Urban Studies, University of Glasgow, 2000



*Murdo Maciver checks the day’s hostel vacancies*

## Our day

There is no such thing as an ordinary day at Borderline. However, some of the staff have kept a diary for a day, just to give you an idea of what goes on.

### Catherine (our Bookkeeper and Administrator)



*Catherine looks at the Travel Warrant register*

- 9am arrive at my desk. Check e-mails, faxes, etc
- 9.30am top up petty cash and bank any money received
- 10.30am open the post with Eileen, the Director
- 11.30am order any birth certificates that are needed
- 12.30pm lunch – a quick trip round the new shopping centre at Victoria with Caroline
- 1.30pm go to Crown Court Kirk to collect the proceeds of their sock harvest!
- 3.00pm work on organising the collection at Southwark tube station
- 4.15pm check panic alarms with the ADT engineer
- 5pm ride my bike home

### Mark (Caroline and Mark are our Advice Workers)

- 9am listen to phone messages and check appointments for the day
- 9.40am get a call from a client on our advice line
- 9.45am talk to a young couple who call into our drop in session
- 10.10am try to find accommodation for Sam, a new client
- 10.45am phoned Peter, a client we are trying to help into a housing association flat
- 11.15am help a client to complete a Disability Living Allowance form
- 12.30pm lunch – a sandwich at my desk whilst I write an article for the UNLEASH newsletter
- 1.30pm call hostels to see what accommodation is available for our clients



*Mark in the main Borderline office*



*Caroline logs a newly arrived birth certificate*

- 2pm a very happy Peter phones to say that the housing association has accepted his application
- 3.20pm try to help a client who has just been discharged from a psychiatric hospital. I put him in touch with the local homeless persons unit and give him some warm clothing
- 4.30pm start preparing for tomorrow
- 5pm walk round the corner to Victoria station to catch train home

## Our clients

### We offer our clients a range of services, including:

- Professional housing and welfare benefits advice and advocacy
- Assessment and referrals to specialist drugs and alcohol agencies
- Assessment and referrals to resettlement options such as hostels and supported housing
- Supportive resettlement in Scotland
- Priority access to bedspaces with partner hostels in London
- Planned resettlement into longer-term accommodation
- Travel warrants
- Subsidised Birth Certificates for proof of identity
- Assistance with accessing individual grants for household goods and work necessities
- Free toiletries and clothing
- Free telephone advice line

### We helped our clients with:

1649	Client Contacts
159	Travel Warrants
270	Birth Certificates
145	Resettlements to Scotland
36	Placements in subsidised hostel bedspaces
33	Large Grants
228	Men registered as new clients
46	Women registered as new clients



*David Purdon, a former client who became a volunteer at Borderline then moved into paid employment*

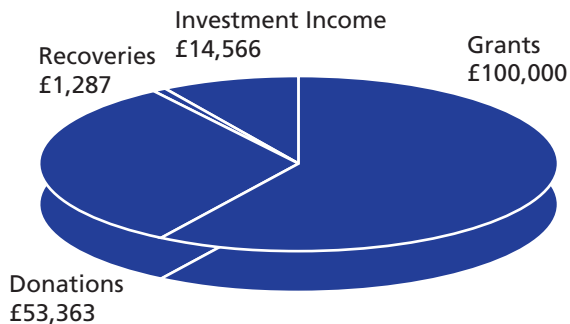
### In the year April 04 – March 05, our clients came from:

Aberdeen City	14
Aberdeenshire	3
Angus	1
Argyll and Bute	1
Clackmannanshire	1
Dumfries and Galloway	1
Dundee City	15
East Ayrshire	3
East Dunbartonshire	3
East Lothian	2
East Renfrewshire	2
Edinburgh, City of	22
Eilean Siar, Comhairle nan (Western Isles)	1
Falkirk	2
Fife	7
Glasgow	85
Highland	7
Inverclyde	3
Midlothian	2
Moray	2
North Ayrshire	4
North Lanarkshire	5
Orkney Islands	1
Perth and Kinross	5
Renfrewshire	6
Scottish Borders	3
Shetland Islands	1
South Ayrshire	4
South Lanarkshire	2
Stirling	6
West Dunbartonshire	3
West Lothian	4
Other UK	13
Non UK	3
Unknown	37
<b>Total</b>	<b>274</b>

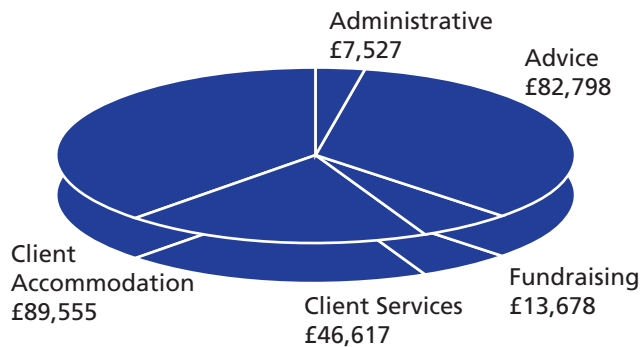
## Our money

Financial Information for the year 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005

### Breakdown of Income



### Breakdown of Expenditure



### Income and Expenditure

Income	£169,216
Expenditure	£240,175
<b>Operating Deficit</b>	<b>£70,959</b>

### Fund Balances

General Fund	£110,334
Designated Funds	£147,112
<b>Total</b>	<b>£257,446</b>

A full financial statement is available upon request

## Administrative information

COSLAS/Borderline  
7/9 Belgrave Road  
London SW1V 1QB  
Tel - 0845 456 2190  
Fax - 0845 456 2199  
E-mail - [office@borderline-uk.org](mailto:office@borderline-uk.org)  
Web - [www.borderline-uk.org](http://www.borderline-uk.org)  
Charity No - 208437

## Our supporters

On behalf of our clients, we thank the following for their support during the year:

### Charitable Trusts

Construction Trade Contractors Burns Society  
London Housing Foundation  
Royal Caledonian Ball Trust  
The Mickel Fund  
The Napier Fund  
The Robertson Trust

### Church Related

Balquhidder Parish Church  
Cameron Parish Church  
Crown Court Church, London  
Forgandenny Parish Church  
Killin and Ardeonaig Parish Church  
Kilmuir and Logie Easter Church  
Manse of Broom Church  
Partick Trinity Church  
St Andrew's Church, Brussels  
St Columba's Church, London, Benevolence Committee  
St Columba's Church, London, Burns' Night Supper  
St Columba's Church, London, Country Dancers  
St Columba's Church, London, Fellowship Group

### Groups

Clan Macpherson Association  
(London Branch) Reels Evening  
Great Scottish Run  
Great Scottish Walkers  
Lunnainn Albannaich  
Westminster Libraries and Archives Home Library Service  
Wirral Coastal Walkers

### Regiments

The London Scottish

### Companies

Glasgow Music Centre  
John Rebus Ltd  
N M Rothschild and Sons Ltd

### Grants for Individual Clients

Royal Scottish Corporation  
St Columba's Church, London, Benevolence Committee

### Statutory

The Scottish Executive



**SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE**

We are also very grateful for the support that comes from many individuals and those who wish to remain anonymous.



*Borderline benefits from IMPACT, a broadly-based programme of personal and organisational development support for voluntary agencies tackling homelessness in London.*

**“I’m very pleased. I wouldn’t have been able to move into my own flat without the help of Borderline.”**

**“Thanks for getting me this flat in Dundee, it’s the best move I’ve ever made. I won’t be leaving home again.”**

**“It’s great to be settled back in Scotland. I can’t stop smiling!”**

**“Thanks for helping me get a flat of my own. I couldn’t have got this place without Borderline’s help.”**

**“Thanks for getting me a hostel place, I’ve just had my first full night’s sleep in six weeks.”**



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SCOTS IN LONDON

**COSLAS/Borderline**

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Charity No - 208437

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