

Divisions Affected - All

CABINET

18 June 2024

Oxfordshire County Council to become a Council of Sanctuary

Report of the Executive Director of People

RECOMMENDATION

1. **The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to**
 - a) Agree that the Council should work towards submitting an application to become a recognised Council of Sanctuary, as proposed in the motion passed by full council on 7 November 2023 – see Annex 1 (iii);
 - b) Note the requirement for the development of a strategy or framework for migration for future decision making and integration into the Council's business and budget planning process;
 - c) Delegate the submission of an application for Sanctuary Status to the Executive Director of People in consultation with the Leader of the Council;
 - d) Note the progress made against the other resolutions in the motion passed by Council on 7 November 2023 – see Annex 1 (i and ii).

Executive Summary

2. In response to the Council's request that Cabinet considers joining the Sanctuary Network, this report sets out what it means to be a Council of Sanctuary, the policy implications with respect to the administration's priorities and notes the resources that would be required to meet the criteria. It goes on to recommend that the Council works towards submitting an application.
3. The report also notes that since the motion was passed, the Leader of the Council has signed the national 'Fight the Anti-Refugee Laws' pledge on behalf of Council and has written to the Home Secretary calling on government to repeal recent migration legislation.

Background

4. Migration into the UK by those seeking sanctuary from war, persecution and serious human rights violations is a long-standing feature of British life. Given

geo-political and climate uncertainty, it is expected that these trends will continue into the long-term.

5. County Council services have a long history of engaging with migrants and those seeking asylum through its statutory and community services. Children's Services have a dedicated team working with unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, school admissions teams and schools themselves work closely to integrate migrant children into education settings. Adult social care has duties towards all residents, regardless of their immigration status.
6. Universal services, such as libraries and registrars, regularly provide help and support to some of the most vulnerable in our communities. In recent years, the Council and its partners have been heavily involved in specific schemes supporting new cohorts of individuals, including those fleeing war in Syria, Afghanistan and Ukraine, and British Nationals formerly residents of Hong Kong who are eligible to live in the UK.
7. On 7 November 2023 a motion was passed at full council for the Council to consider joining the network of local authorities which, promote the inclusion and welfare of people who are fleeing violence and persecution, and become a recognised Council of Sanctuary. In addition, the motion resolved that the Council should support the 'Fight the Anti-Refugee Laws' pledge and make representations to government on recent legislation.
8. Since the motion, the council has joined the Local Authority City of Sanctuary Network which supports organisations seeking to become a Council of Sanctuary. The Network has a clear set of criteria to assist councils with achieving sanctuary status based on 3 principles: learn, embed, and share. In order to consider the feasibility and impact of obtaining Council of Sanctuary Status, the county council's migration team has undertaken a gap analysis against these criteria and developed an outline plan to apply for sanctuary status.

Council of Sanctuary

9. The City of Sanctuary approach was founded in 2005 in Sheffield when local organisations supporting people seeking sanctuary came together to pledge their support as a network. In 2007, with the support of Sheffield City Council and over 60 community organisations, Sheffield became the first City of Sanctuary. Since then, hundreds of local councils, schools, universities, libraries, theatres and more have been awarded sanctuary status, pledging to create a culture of solidarity, inclusivity and welcome through its networks.
10. Prior to 2020, City of Sanctuary UK ran a local-wide assessment for whole places. It has subsequently moved to an assessment of individual institutions and their role. The proposed application would therefore be for the County Council, rather than Oxfordshire as a whole, albeit considering how the Council engages with partners is an essential element of the scheme. The Local Authority Sanctuary Network is supported by City of Sanctuary and aims to support those councils that are working towards the Sanctuary vision. While the

umbrella organisation is still called City of Sanctuary, it recognises the increasing presence of migrants and asylum seekers across the whole of the UK and network members include councils covering cities, towns and more rural areas.

11. In order to gain sanctuary status, the council would need to endorse the [City of Sanctuary charter 2022-2025](#) and the values set out in this: Inclusive, open, participation, inspire, integrity and complete the 9-step application process, this is set out in Annex Three. This includes ensuring the voices of those with lived experience are heard and developing a three-year strategy (or framework) which embeds a culture of welcome and inclusion across the organisation and in the wider community. The criteria are set out in the gap analysis in annex two.
12. There are many local authorities that have gained accreditation (Liverpool, Lambeth, Newcastle) including councils such as Lancashire, and those who are in the process of gaining accreditation such as Oxford City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council. The County Council is already working with the City Council and the wider Local Authority Network to share learning and best practice.

The Oxfordshire County Council approach

13. All councils awarded the Sanctuary Accreditation up to this point are unitary or metropolitan boroughs and therefore have responsibilities for services including housing, welfare support, wellbeing and community development which in Oxfordshire sit with city and district functions. The Council will be mindful of its role and function, and the role of other partners, in developing its approach. This will require a focus on statutory services, providing a convening role and direction through the broader Oxfordshire Migration Partnership.
14. As such, the overarching approach underpinning the draft migration strategy is to integrate migration activities into existing services so that they become business as usual. Therefore, the Council will focus significantly on internal county council processes and core service delivery. There will be wider engagement with partners, including the City/ District councils, as well as those with lived experience, so that the strategy is not developed in a vacuum.
15. The council is not starting from a zero base and has undertaken a significant amount of work already to support vulnerable migrants, through a number of core council services including: children's early help, education and safeguarding, adults and housing, public health, community safety, customer services, as well as support services such as communications, IT, finance, legal and commissioning. The central point for much of this activity is through the council migration team which is the linchpin to the Oxfordshire Migration Partnership.
16. Following discussion with the national City of Sanctuary network lead and other local authorities who have gone through the accreditation process, the migration team has undertaken a gap analysis to identify the areas that the Council needs to focus on to develop the draft strategy. An outline plan sets out a timeline for

engaging with Directorates to achieve this, under the headings of learn, embed and share – see Annex Three.

Oxfordshire Migration Partnership

17. The Council is already undertaking a lot of activity to support refugees and asylum seekers as a key partner leading the multi-agency Oxfordshire Migration Partnership.
18. The partnership's ambition is *to maintain an Oxfordshire refugee and asylum migration system that ensures a warm welcome for all new arrivals and embraces and supports independent living for those staying in the county*. It is chaired by the Deputy Chief Executive (Transformation and Operations) at South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils, with the County Council's Head of Migration as the Deputy Chair. Membership includes representation across the county council, plus the district/ city councils, ICB BOB¹, Thames Valley Police and local expertise from the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS), including Asylum Welcome, Connection Support and Refugee Resource.
19. The work of the migration partnership is overseen at the strategic level by the countywide Chief Executives Group.
20. The partnership responds collaboratively to the myriad of government resettlement and visa schemes that have been set up over the past couple of years including Homes for Ukraine (HfU), ARAP/ ACRS², Hong Kong British Nationals Overseas (BNO)³, UK Resettlement Schemes (UKRS), as well as responding to the needs of asylum seekers staying in the contingency hotels.
21. Over the past year, the partnership has delivered significant achievements which include the following⁴:
 - (a) Welcomed over 2,600 Ukrainians to the county, including delivering safeguarding and welfare checks in every host family home.
 - (b) Continued to meet moral and financial obligations to support almost 1,300 hosts, including 'topping up' monthly thank you payments to £550 per host arrangement.
 - (c) Created a clear pipeline for hosted HfU families to transfer into settled accommodation or rematched with new host families.
 - (d) Developed a £1.2m employment investment programme which is currently being delivered to support Ukrainians into meaningful work, with wider benefits being created for other migrant groups wherever possible.
 - (e) Collaborated on a partnership response to the Home Office Consultation on Safe and Legal routes.

¹ ICB BOB - Integrated Care Board for Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire

² Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) and Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme (ACRS)

³ BNO – British Nationals Overseas

⁴ Actual numbers have been removed as this is confidential Home Office data

- (f) Completed a new tender process for commissioned HfU wraparound support services.
 - (g) Agreed funding allocations to the end of March 2025, and created a more systematic approach to managing and monitoring funding spend.
 - (h) Established a new small grants scheme to support building a community network of Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations supporting vulnerable migrant communities.
 - (i) Re-oriented the Oxfordshire migration system to include all vulnerable migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers.
 - (j) Ensured all migrant children are supported into schools within five weeks of arrival⁵.
 - (k) Delivered a powerful multi-agency partnership workshop on sharing experiences of migration at the front line which is now an annual event.
 - (l) Managed the exit of Afghans (adults and children) from two Bridging hotels in the county.
 - (m) Worked with VCS to support asylum seekers staying temporarily in contingency accommodation (hotels).
 - (n) Supported the Home Office with the closure of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UAS) hotel in Banbury, with all remaining children taken into the care of Oxfordshire's Childrens Social Services.
 - (o) Worked with the MOD to set up appropriate facilities to support Afghan families staying in Transitional/ Service Family Accommodation (TSFA/SFA), with a specific focus safeguarding and ensuring access to schools and education for children and young people.
22. A partnership outcomes framework is being finalised and allows the partnership to measure success against agreed deliverables. As part of its preventative approach, a key objective for the partnership is to prevent homelessness. By the end of Q2 last year, only 3.9% of households were accessing temporary accommodation against a target of 10% however, by Q3 this figure had risen to 10.1% - which has a significant impact on the cost⁶ of homelessness across the county. A similar outcomes framework will be developed for the Council migration strategy.

Policy and resource implications

23. The values of the sanctuary criteria fit well with the Council's long-standing services to migrants and its current partnership approach. The Sanctuary Charter is well aligned with the council's ambitions for migration, as set out in the partnership vision outlined above. Working through the application criteria will provide a valuable framework for reviewing how services deliver for migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, identifying any opportunities for improvement, gaps or barriers to service access. It would be the intended approach of the Council to undertake a review within its business planning

⁵ This period of time has been longer for ARAP children staying in Transitional Service Family Accommodation (TSFA) as the County Council had to secure additional funding from the Home Office to provide schooling to children staying temporarily at the MOD site at Shrivenham.

⁶ The government's Evidence review of the cost of homelessness found that homelessness costs roughly £24,000-£30,000 per person.

framework with an additional migration lens, to ensure the specific needs of these residents are being considered within service plans and operations.

24. No specific new resources are proposed for the application process as the migration team will engage with services, with the support of business planning and policy teams as appropriate. While it is anticipated that this process may identify the need for changed ways of working, any new resource requirement would need to be considered through the budget and business planning process alongside other priorities.
25. By seeking sanctuary accreditation, the council would be affirming its commitment to build a refugee protection system that treats all people seeking sanctuary with dignity and compassion and ensuring that its policies and services support this commitment.
26. This report therefore recommends that Cabinet agrees to the intention agreed at Full Council and directs officers to take forward the application process.

Developing the Draft Migration Strategy

27. If Cabinet supports the recommendation to seek to gain Council of Sanctuary recognition, officers will engage more fully with services during May and June 2024 in order to develop the required migration strategy and to identify opportunities and gaps within directorate business plans. The draft strategy will be developed by December 2024, and supported by a clear and transparent plan to support people, including those who have no recourse to public funds (NRPF), providing the foundation for our Council of Sanctuary submission.

Further resolutions of Cabinet

28. On the 8 February 2024 Cllr Leffman as Leader of the Council signed a fight the anti-refugee laws pledge on behalf of the council. The pledge calls on the government to repeal the Illegal Migration Act and the Nationality and Borders Act and to withdraw from the UK-Rwanda partnership.
29. To this end, on the 9 February 2024 Cllr Leffman wrote to the Home Secretary to express concerns about the Illegal Migration Act, which became UK law in July 2023, noting this to be is a barrier to the provision of safe services that deliver the best outcomes for those seeking sanctuary and for the settled community.
30. The Council continues to engage at officer level through the South-East Strategic Partnership for Migration and attending ministerial meetings in order inform government of the impact of their policies in practice.

Corporate Policies and Priorities

31. Becoming a Council of Sanctuary directly supports the Council's priority of tackling inequality in Oxfordshire. Also, it indirectly addresses the prioritisation of residents' health and wellbeing. This is achieved by understanding the needs

of those seeking sanctuary who are some of the most vulnerable residents in the county, whilst also recognising the needs of the established community at a place level.

Financial Implications

32. The financial implications of the recommendation in this report are primarily related to reviewing the extent to which migration issues are integrated into mainstream services so that they become business as usual. Officer resources to develop the strategy and support the integration of the sanctuary approach will be drawn from the grant-funded migration team. Grant funding may be available to fund any identified enabling activity, such as to meet additional training needs for staff.
33. To date, the corporate migration team (3.0 Full Time Equivalent) has been funded using the HfU and related government asylum support funding which has been allocated to support the team until March 2025. As this funding is reducing there will be a need in future years to consider the resources required to support migration centrally within the county council. A separate business case is being developed for this purpose.

Comments checked by:

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Legal Implications

34. There are no legal implications as a consequence of approving the recommendations.

Comments checked by:

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Staff Implications

35. The primary aim is to integrate migration across the Council so that it becomes business as usual and therefore the impact on resources will be minimal.
36. Additional training needs for existing staff in services that will support vulnerable migrants may be required, but it is anticipated that, in the main, migration will be integrated into existing training programmes as appropriate.
37. As noted above under financial implications, the HfU funding is reducing and there is a need to consider the resources required to support migration centrally within the Council. A separate business case is being developed for this purpose.

Equality & Inclusion Implications

38. The migration team is supporting the review of the current Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) framework so that the draft migration strategy is aligned to the updated approach. Through identifying opportunities for improving service delivery with some of our most vulnerable residents, a strategic approach will focus on how the specific needs of vulnerable migrants can be met whilst considering how the learning can bring wider benefits by improving services for all to become an employer of choice, place-shaper of choice and partner of choice.
39. An Equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken to support the draft migration strategy.

Sustainability Implications

40. There are no significant impacts in respect of environmental sustainability in relation to the Council becoming a Council of Sanctuary.

Risk Management

41. The main risk of not integrating support for vulnerable migrants across the Council is that the needs of some of the county's most vulnerable residents are not met and the Council will not be successful in gaining accreditation to become a Council of Sanctuary.
42. A further risk is that migration continues to be viewed as a specialist area across the Council with knowledge and understanding about the needs of people seeking sanctuary not being embedded across Council services, processes and procedures.

Consultations

43. The migration team has engaged with the Oxfordshire Migration Partnership, the City Council, and wider County Council services that are most likely to be impacted.
44. The team has engaged VCS partners supporting refugees, migrants and asylum seeker across the county.

Robin Rogers, Programme Director (Partnerships & Delivery)

Annex: Annex 1 - Motion by Councillor Andrew Gant: passed by Full Council - 7 November 2023
Annex 2 – Outline plan for signing-off the draft migration strategy
Annex 3 - City of Sanctuary Application Process and definitions of Learn, Embed, Share

Background papers: Nil

Other Documents: Nil

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Annex 1: Motion by Councillor Andrew Gant: passed by Full Council - 7 November 2023

Oxfordshire County Council is proud of our history of welcoming people seeking safety in our county. We believe that:

- everyone has the right to seek safety, and everyone's claim for asylum should be treated equally and fairly;
- the Government's 'anti-refugee' laws undermine internationally recognized rights for people fleeing war and persecution to seek safety;
- people seeking safety should be housed as our neighbours and as a part of our communities;
- the UK needs an asylum system that empowers people seeking safety to rebuild their lives and enables communities to welcome them;

Council resolves to:

- i. defend the right to seek safety from war and persecution in the UK by signing the national 'Fight the Anti-Refugee Laws' pledge;
- ii. call on the UK Government to repeal the Illegal Migration Act and the Nationality and Borders Act, withdraw the UK–Rwanda partnership,
- iii. request Cabinet to
 - work with Local Authorities and communities to build a refugee protection system that treats all people with dignity and compassion;
 - continue to lobby against any UK Government plans to build or repurpose facilities in Oxfordshire to detain or warehouse people seeking safety;
 - work with local organisations and people with lived experience of the asylum system to identify ways to mitigate the effects of these measures in Oxfordshire;
 - consider joining the network of cities and towns which promote the inclusion and welfare of people who are fleeing violence and persecution and become a recognised Council of Sanctuary

Annex 2: Outline plan for signing-off the draft migration strategy

Criteria	Activity required to support delivery	Date of completion
Council passes a motion to become a Council of Sanctuary (CoS)	Motion passed	7 November 2023
	Join LA City of Sanctuary Network	January 2024
Commit to working with the local City of Sanctuary group, seek their endorsement for the award	Engage other LAs to learn from their experience, especially Oxford City Council who are close to submitting their application	April 2024
LEARN - work to show the commitment of the LA to learn about what it means to be seeking sanctuary. It is important to include people seeking sanctuary in learning	Cabinet decision to approve their support for achieving sanctuary status	June 2024
	Gap analysis	April 2024
	Engage DLTs/ services in Council of Sanctuary principles	July 2024
	Support Refugee Week	June 2024
	Work with VCS to capture user voices to better understand needs Engage Universities to identify common areas of work	July 2024
EMBED - local authority is taking positive action to implement welcome, safety, and inclusion	As above, continue to work DLTs to identify areas where improvements can be made to increase welcome, safety and inclusion	July 2024
	Update council communications to reflect Council of Sanctuary ambitions and update webpages to welcome and inform all new arrivals into the county.	July 2024
	Set up project group to develop action plan	June 2024
	Engage Cllrs: provide briefing	June 2024
SHARE - evidence that the place is seeking to share experience of sanctuary and welcome with the wider community, local organisations and spreading the word	Work with Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action (OCVA), Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership (OIEP), Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP), Universities, Migration Partnership to promote and share learning and good practice	Ongoing
Commit to work with partners to identify national policy issues to make collective representation to government	To continue to gather evidence of what works/ doesn't work and evidence base and raise awareness of this through the Council of Sanctuary network locally and nationally	September 2024
Produce a written strategy which is publicly available and sets out commitment for at least 3 years	Develop draft 3-year strategy Apply for Council of Sanctuary status	September 2024

Annex 3: Application Process for Council of Sanctuary status and definitions of Learn, Embed, Share

The [City of Sanctuary charter 2022-2025](#) can be found here.

The 9-step application process and minimum criteria for award, including the definitions of Learn, Embed, Share are as follows:

Step 1 – The council publicly commits to joining the City of Sanctuary Local Authority Network, and to work towards recognition as a ‘Council of Sanctuary’. This can be via a motion at a public committee such as Council or Cabinet.

Step 2 – The council becomes a member of the Local Authority Network by signing the membership form. In joining the network the council is committing to work towards the ‘Council of Sanctuary’ Award and is agreeing to sign up as a Supporting Organisation (this includes an endorsement of the City of Sanctuary Charter).

Step 3 – The council engages with the City of Sanctuary local group (if one exists), local refugee organisations, and people with lived experience. Councils usually do this via existing partnership/multi-agency (Sanctuary) forums, or where such don’t exist or don’t undertake strategic work the council can set one up. (There is no one size fits all approach to engagement so please ask the City of Sanctuary UK officer for local authorities for good practice examples).

Step 4 - The council develops a strategy/framework for supporting people seeking sanctuary in the community by embedding ‘Sanctuary’ principles across council services and works to promote inclusion and welcome across the wider community. Councils usually develop Sanctuary Strategies either as a standalone or as part of an existing strategy. Councils can focus on reviewing/uplifting council services or facilitate the development of a partnership strategy which includes services provided by a wider section of local stakeholders.

Step 5 – The council reviews the LEARN, EMBED and SHARE criteria set out below and ensures it meets them, and when ready, applies for recognition by submitting the council specific Awards Application form.

Step 6 – The application will be appraised by a panel which will normally include members of the local City of Sanctuary group (if one exists), people with lived experience of seeking sanctuary, representatives from local refugee supporting organisations, and members of the City of Sanctuary Local Authority Steering Group (usually officers and/or councillors who have been through the process themselves). The panel assessment can be thought of as a peer review and usually results in a set of recommendations.

Step 7 - When a local authority is able to demonstrate that all of the minimum criteria are met, the council will be awarded a ‘Council of Sanctuary’ for a 3-year period, and will be given the right to use the ‘Council of Sanctuary’ logo to recognise their commitment accompanied by the wording:

“X...is a recognised County/District/Borough/City/Unitary/Parish/Town [delete as appropriate] Council of Sanctuary.

Step 8 – A plan should be made for the Award presentation to include an event/ media statement etc. to celebrate the achievement of the council (and local partners) in including and supporting people seeking sanctuary. Please note that the small application fee must be paid before the Award is made public.

Step 9 –The recommendations agreed during the appraisal process should be discussed and where possible taken forward during the three-year award period. This will inform a review (re-accreditation) at the end of the three years. A new application has to be submitted to renew the award after three years and if successful an updated certificate of recognition can be issued.

Minimum Criteria

This guidance aims to outline the minimum criteria required for the award. We would encourage local authorities to build on these in a way that best reflects their specific context.

Criterion 1: Pass a council motion setting out commitment to being a place of sanctuary, joining the Local authority Network and working toward the ‘Council of Sanctuary’ award at some point in the future.

Criterion 2: Join the City of Sanctuary Local Authority Network which includes a pledge to support the vision of City of Sanctuary and an endorsement of its charter.

Criterion 3: Commit to working with the local City of Sanctuary group (which could be via a specific local pledge) and/or other refugee supporting organisations and/or networks.

Criterion 4: Show evidence of the work with the local City of Sanctuary group (and/or other refugee organisations/networks) and receive the endorsement from those groups for the award application.

In addition to the above criteria all Sanctuary Awards follow the Learn, Embed and Share principles:

Learn: learning about what it means to be seeking sanctuary, both in general, and specifically.

Embed: taking positive action to embed concepts of welcome, safety and inclusion and ensuring this progress remains sustainable.

Share: sharing your vision, achievements, what you have learned, and good practice with other local authorities, the local community and beyond.

The ‘Learn, Embed and Share’ criteria specific to councils are outlined below:

Learn Criteria

The LEARN element encompasses any activity that seeks to improve awareness of the sanctuary-seeking community and the reasons why people are forced to migrate. Knowledge of the asylum system or of the many challenges and institutional barriers

which face people seeking sanctuary can help officers and members to reflect on how they might help and better focus their efforts. This is often best achieved by including people seeking sanctuary and finding ways to learn from them as well as about refugee issues more broadly. To receive an award, the local authority must meet the following LEARN criteria:

Criterion 5: Awareness raising opportunities are provided, and opportunities for discussion around the theme of welcome and sanctuary are facilitated on a community level. This can be via partnership/multi-agency forums

Criterion 6: Evidence of refugee/asylum/migration awareness raising is included into everyday business of the local authority e.g. staff induction/training.

Criterion 7: Commitment to platform and amplify the voices of people seeking sanctuary. This can be by including people with lived experience on 'sanctuary forums' or by ensuring meaningful engagement on strategy development.

Embed Criteria

For City of Sanctuary UK, 'embedding' means that the local authority is taking positive action to implement welcome, safety and inclusion within services and beyond. City of Sanctuary UK would like details on how the local authority will ensure a continuation of support for sanctuary on an ongoing basis. To receive an award, the local authority must meet the following 'embed' criteria:

Criterion 8: Produce a written strategy (either a standalone strategy or as part of a broader strategy e.g. equality, migration etc.) which is publicly available and sets out commitment of the council for at least three years. This should be co-produced as far as possible with people seeking sanctuary and organisations representing them. As part of the strategy the council should also have a clear and transparent plan to support people with NRPF.

Criterion 9: The local authority must demonstrate how it has embedded the concepts of welcome and inclusion across the organisation. This should show how the local authority will continue to develop and sustain a culture of welcome beyond the award. Councils often develop internal officer groups bringing together heads of service (or team leads) from various service areas that oversee the delivery of the strategy.

Criterion 10: The council is able to demonstrate a commitment to being an anti-racist organisation and has policies and practice in place that align to their work to become a 'Council of Sanctuary'.

Share Criteria

City of Sanctuary UK will be seeking evidence that the council shares its experience of sanctuary and welcome with the wider community, local organisations and spreading the word about their welcoming efforts. To receive an award, the local authority must meet the following criteria:

Criterion 11: The local authority publicly highlights its work in support of welcome and inclusion by making it visible on its website and noticeboards NB. Once the sanctuary award is received, we would expect the logo and a link to the webpage on the website.

Criterion 12: Commitment to supporting initiatives that embeds welcome and fosters solidarity between receiving communities and people seeking sanctuary e.g. participation in Refugee Week or other cultural events. As well as promoting sanctuary principles among local statutory and voluntary sector partners.

Criterion 13: Commitment to on-going engagement with the City of Sanctuary Local Authority Network. This may include sharing resources, ideas and achievements via the network and City of Sanctuary UK website.

Criterion 14: Work with the national Local Authority network and local partners to identify national policy issues in order to make collective representations to the government to encourage and enable change via contributing to consultations, position statements etc.