

Bradford City of Sanctuary Annual Report

for the 12 months ending 10th June 2022

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Bradford City of Sanctuary



Bradford City of Sanctuary

VISION

City of Sanctuary UK holds the vision that our nations will be welcoming places of safety for all and proud to offer sanctuary to people fleeing violence and persecution. In order to realise this vision, City of Sanctuary UK supports a network of groups (131 to date), which includes villages, towns, cities and regions across the UK, and others engaged in Streams of Sanctuary, Sanctuary Awards and activities intended to welcome people seeking sanctuary.

In Bradford we work to generate an environment of safety and hospitality - a city that is more inclusive and welcoming, where those seeking sanctuary can be recognised and celebrated for their contributions. We work through partnerships with the local authority and other key service providers, as well as numerous voluntary and community groups to create, facilitate and support networks across the city.

This has been a very busy and fruitful year, particularly as we have been able to gradually emerge from Covid restrictions and engage full-face with the world again. As always, interest in our work and opportunities for us to engage have outstripped our human resources – but we are developing plans to address this in the coming year.

We hope that you will be inspired by what you read in the following pages. We frequently are - by the energy, creativity and generosity of the people of this amazing 'city of sanctuary', and inspired by many of the sanctuary seekers we encounter who, like us, are seeking to build a better world.

Staffing changes

As the year ended, we sadly said farewell to our wonderful Schools of Sanctuary Project Leader, Sarah Cartin, who moved on to a full time post with the NHS national training team. Over the past three years she has brought so much energy and professionalism to this work and very significantly developed our relationships with local schools and their participation in the Schools of Sanctuary awards, as well as improving the award process and producing some excellent resources for use both locally and nationally. Our sadness in losing her has been tempered by succeeding in very swiftly recruiting a fabulous replacement in the shape of Kate Hart, who has truly 'hit the ground running'.

We have sadly also had to say goodbye to Mike Auger, our Coordinator. Mike was with us for two and a half years and brought incredible creativity and enthusiasm to our work. He has transformed our public profile and thrown great energy into developing many aspects of our work. We wish him all the best as he commits more of his time to developing the great work of [Displace Yourself Theatre Co.](#)

We are currently reviewing our staffing and look to be advertising shortly.

Sanctuary Awards

The Coordinator's report below includes some great examples of local organisations, large and small, who are seeking to actively welcome and facilitate the participation of sanctuary seekers in their services.

Back in 2010 Bradford was one of the first cities in the UK to be formally recognised as a 'City of Sanctuary' and this was reaffirmed early in 2014 following a comprehensive review. We were absolutely delighted therefore, when last summer Bradford Council decided to not just join the fast growing national [Local Authorities Network](#), but to actively pursue the newly developed [Local Authority of Sanctuary award](#). We worked closely with them and were thrilled when the Appraisal Panel unanimously agreed to make the award just before Christmas. We continue to follow through with Council staff the commitments made in the application. A public celebration is taking place in City Hall during this year's Refugee Week.

2021 saw the launch of the amazing [Welcome to Bradford website](#), instigated by our trustee Mandy Oates and co-developed with [Refugee Action](#) and the fabulous [Solidaritech](#). The site has been further developed over the past year to provide a one-stop portal to virtually everything a migrant arriving in the city would need to know.

After two years when, like much of the rest of the world, we were confined to base by Covid restrictions, it was a joy to be able to take our information display to the return of Bradford's magnificent annual [Peace & Crafts Fair](#) in November – always a great opportunity to promote our work to the many hundreds of lovely people who attend, as well as enjoy delicious food and some early ethical Christmas shopping.

Media engagement

Throughout the year we gave regular interviews on the ever faithful [BCB Radio](#), as well as Heart and Capital W.Yorks. Likewise contributed to several articles in the Telegraph & Argus newspaper.

The wider context

A review of the year cannot ignore the sinister developments beyond this wonderful city. With numbers of refugees across the world spiraling due to ever more appalling conflicts, as well as the impacts of climate change, it has been chilling to witness the passing into law of the [Nationality and Borders Act](#), as well as the almost unbelievable decision to start sending asylum seekers to Rwanda. Space does not allow her to dissect the impact of these. We were early members of newly established and very rapidly growing [Together With Refugees](#) coalition and have taken every opportunity to add our support to those seeking to oppose these unjust decisions, which have been condemned by many, including the UNHCR and Amnesty International. On 20th October we held a rally in Bradford's City Park, attended by over 100 and [covered by local media](#), to demonstrate our opposition to the then Nationalities and Borders Bill.



As always, our regular work continues as we daily circulate relevant information to the local network of asylum support agencies, respond to requests for information both locally and nationally, and signpost to and promote the work of all the excellent organisations and projects working with and run by sanctuary seekers in the city.

Will Sutcliffe

Schools of Sanctuary Project

After some challenging years with the pandemic, it is wonderful to now be able to go into schools and colleges, hold face-to-face meetings and participate in school, community and city-wide events.

In April 2022, after three years as the Project Coordinator, Sarah Cartin moved on. Her dedicated work on the project built many strong relationships with schools, colleges and organisations across Bradford and saw involvement in a variety of projects supporting pupils seeking sanctuary.



Year 2 children from Lilycroft Primary School redesigned the colours of City Hall for our Refugee Week 2021 Schools' Art Exhibition

Over the last year, a number of schools and colleges have been working towards the Schools of Sanctuary award. Last June, we were delighted to make the award to Lilycroft Primary, Bradford Academy and St. Joseph's Primary. St Cuthbert and The First Martyrs' Catholic Primary School also renewed their award; we have two more schools keen to renew soon. The total number of schools who have now achieved the award across Bradford is 11. We have four schools and colleges making great progress with their application and we are hoping that one of the colleges will receive their award during Refugee Week 2022. There are eight more schools with expressions of interest that we have contact with. Work has been done throughout the year to provide information and support to schools welcoming sanctuary-seeking children into their school communities, and to empower them to advocate and escalate concerns for these pupils. We have been working with colleagues in the Council on a training resource for schools welcoming and supporting sanctuary seeking students and their families. Progress on this project has been hampered by staff illness within the Council, but we hope to continue with it later this year.

We developed a Critical Thinking resource with [Bradford for Everyone](#), the aim being to reduce hate crime across the Bradford district as part of the '[Make sure it adds up](#)' campaign. We delivered this to 70 students over a two-week period at the end of July 2021. Schools of Sanctuary continue to deliver the workshops which focus on challenging stereotypes and assumptions about refugees and people seeking asylum.

We have worked with a number of other organisations across the city over the year. Last summer, we supported Bradford Literature Festival to promote their summer programme of events and this year we are working with them to deliver workshops on a refugee-themed event at Bradford University for primary schools. Liaising with Artworks, we also arranged for Winter Packs of Creativity to be available for our Schools of Sanctuary primary schools. We also had a positive meeting with [Bradford 2025](#) to explore ways of building refugee communities into the programme for the bid.



Artwork from Lilycroft Primary School based on 'working together' for Refugee Week 2021.

Work to shape schools' involvement in Refugee Week 2022 has taken place throughout the year. Joint work has continued with schools and libraries in the 'Boy 87' book project. A copy of the book was given to all Y6 children in the district, alongside a learning resource pack for all schools. Schools prepared artwork on the theme 'We cannot walk alone' for the Schools' Art Exhibition at Bread and Roses cafe last June and will do so again this year on the theme of 'Healing'. We have also been working with the council to co-ordinate local schools' involvement in the famous [Little Amal](#) giant refugee child puppet's visit to Bradford.



Artwork from Bradford Academy based on the theme 'We cannot walk alone' submitted for Refugee Week 2021



Inspired by David Hockney, Reception children from Lilycroft Primary School created artwork based on landmarks that were important to them for Refugee

Finally, there have been many great opportunities for connecting with the Schools of Sanctuary regional and national network throughout the year, sharing inspirational stories, resources and good practice. Having been in the post for just under a month at this point, I am looking forward to the year ahead as we continue to build and strengthen the Schools and Colleges of Sanctuary project.

Kate Hart, School & College Lead

We were very sad to say goodbye to Mike Auger, our Coordinator, who left us in May. Below is a summary of his work over the past 12 months.

Help Into Volunteering

With the easing of Covid restrictions, working closely with our friends at Bradford Volunteer Centre, Mike was at last able to run successful in person sessions for refugees and asylum seekers at the Millside Centre, at BEACON and BIASAN's English classes and at one of the hotels that are currently housing asylum seekers.

Mike led on the planning for a Market Place for local asylum support agencies at the Community Open day which launched Bradford University's second UNify Festival on 26th March - a great occasion, with many people engaging in the different stalls and activities. In collaboration with the university and BIASAN, we arranged bus transport to enable people living in local temporary accommodation to attend the event. This meant that for some people it may have been their first outing in Bradford since their arrival, at which they were able to get food and drinks and - crucially - ice cream for the children! It was a lovely atmosphere and as ever, we were able to share the work of Bradford City of Sanctuary at another community event.

Mike was very involved for the planning of the national [City of Sanctuary conference](#). Having twice been cancelled due to Covid, we are delighted that it will at last be coming to Bradford on 21st September. To be held at the wonderful Kala Sangam, there will be speakers and workshops covering a range of topics from around the network. Save the date!

Sanctuary Awards

After months of fruitful engagement, on his last day with us Mike had the privilege of handing over the country's first Station of Sanctuary award to **Bradford Interchange**. Their team have fully committed themselves to ensuring that, as far as possible, sanctuary seekers arriving at the station experience a warm 'Bradford' welcome. This includes Welcome signs in multiple languages (including our logo), the creation of a safe and quiet Prayer Room, training for all staff, a commitment to advocating for cheaper travel for asylum seekers, and making timetables more accessible to non-English speakers. We are currently in discussions with West Yorkshire Combined Authority and First Bus to develop a project whereby we coordinate an ongoing cross-sector appeal for public donations, which are then match-funded to provide concessionary fares for asylum . Currently their Home Office allowance amounts to £5.85/day, whilst a Bradford day bus pass costs £5.20.

Mike also worked closely with the team at Bradford Literature Festival and staff at the National Media Museum, both of which are keen to pursue the award.

Meanwhile Alun Pelleschi, one of our trustees, has just supported the lovely team at [Horton Community Farm](#) to achieve the [Garden of Sanctuary award](#), recognising the inspiring work that they have done over many years with vulnerable people, not least sanctuary seekers.

On the horticultural theme, Mike has worked closely with volunteers at [Northcliffe Allotment Society](#) who are offering monthly opportunities for sanctuary seekers to learn and share horticultural skills – and providing free transport and equipment. Opportunities such as this for fresh air, exercise, friendship and learning are so valuable for people who are battling with isolation and exclusion.

Maintaining an active **social media** presence is increasingly important and, through Mike's hard work, we currently have over 1000 [Facebook](#) and Twitter followers. Likewise, Mike has worked hard to keep the BCoS [website](#) updated.

Funding

We are extremely grateful for our small but increasing number of regular individual donors. Our appreciation also goes to the following grant funders for their support of our work over the past year: The Allen Lane Foundation; The Hilden Trust; The Evan Cornish Foundation; The Society for the Holy Child Jesus; The Yapp Trust and Bradford Council (for the developing a Critical Thinking resource in schools).

Trustee Board

Supporting our staff members, we have a team of capable, committed and very hardworking trustees. It has been great to recently welcome two new members.

Chair: Will Sutcliffe - since launch in 2008

Roger Cowell - since 18.04.2018

Kay Holden – since 18.04.2018

Mandy Oates - since 18.04.2018

Rosie MacPherson – since 24.8.20

Alun Pelleschi – since 7.11.20

Esther Douglas – since 9.5.22

Wahid Rashid – since 9.5.22

Treasurer: Phil Lawler

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

Year Ended 31st March 2022

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Coordinator</u>	<u>Schools Worker</u>	<u>Critical Thinking</u>	<u>Previous Year Total</u>
Income						
Donations and legacies	4,415	4,415	0	0	0	17,848
Gift Aid Tax repayment	745	745	0	0	0	356
Grants	8,000	0	6,000	2,000	0	31,153
Other Income	43	43	0	0	0	0
Total Income	13,203	5,203	6,000	2,000	0	49,357
Expenditures						
Accountancy costs	24	8	8	8		174
Office Rental	313		157	157		295
Training Trustees	70	70				0
Donation to C of S	100	100				0
Payroll Administration fees	263		101	161		614
Meeting room hire	264	264	0	0		0
Insurance	342	342				342
Travel expenses	71	5		66		0
Training costs	183		50	133		90
Events	39	39				125
Postage stamps	8	8				0
Telephone costs	129	0	129			31
Miscellaneous costs	156	156				42
Salaries & Wages						
COOR	10,825		10,825			
SoS	14,673			14,673		
Total Salaries & Wages	25,498	0	10,825	14,673	0	18,561
Total Expenditure	27,460	992	11,270	15,198	0	20,274
Net Income/(Expenditure)	(14,257)	4,211	(5,270)	(13,198)	0	29,083

Balance Sheet At 31st March 2022.

	<u>TOTAL</u>	General Fund	Coordi -nator	Schools Worker	Critical Thinking	Previous Year Total
ASSETS						
Bank balance	26,647					40,158
Payment made in advance	6,731					6,030
Petty Cash balance	52					0
Less amount held for University	<u>(1,500)</u>					<u>0</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS	31,930					46,188
FUNDS						
Balances from last year	46,188	20,332	9,967	14,365	1,524	16,400
Transfers between funds (notes 1,2)	0	(10,000)	4,400	7,124	(1,524)	0
Adjustments	0	0	0	0	0	705
<u>Surplus/deficit this year</u>	<u>(14,258)</u>	<u>4,211</u>	<u>(5,270)</u>	<u>(13,198)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>29,083</u>
FUND BALANCES						
TO CARRY FORWARD	31,930	14,543	9,097	8,291	0	46,188

1. £10,000 transferred from General Funds to Coordinator fund (£4,400) and Schools fund (£5,600)
2. £1,524 Critical Thinking budget was completed in normal working hours.

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