



Bristol City Council – Embedding sanctuary in service delivery

BRISTOL CITY OF SANCTUARY



Building a City of Welcome, Safety and Hope

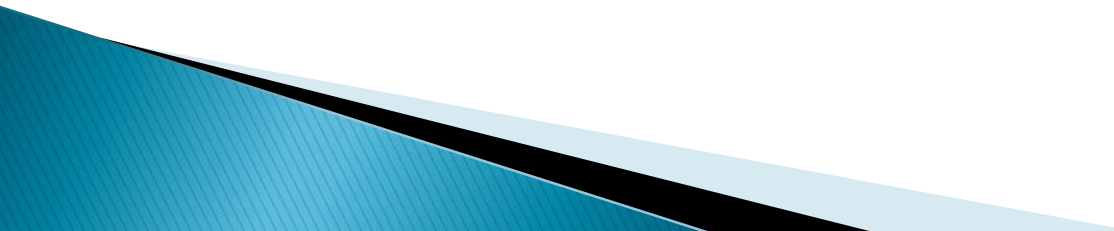
Bristol City of Sanctuary



Background

- Bristol was recognised as a City of Sanctuary in 2011.
- Bristol has a vibrant refugee sector.
- Carried a needs analysis for people seeking sanctuary.
- We're part of the Inclusive Cities initiative.

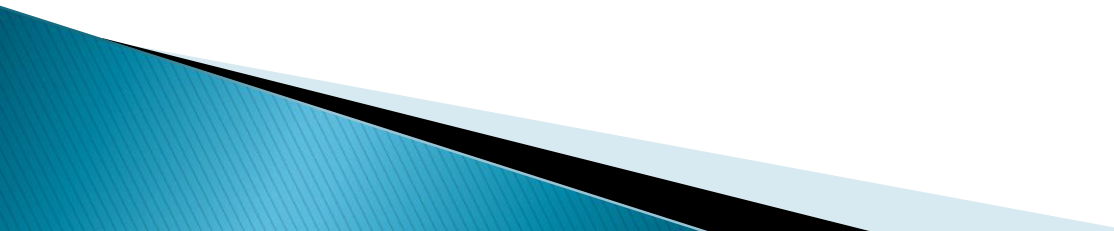
Adopted a [Refugee & Asylum Seeker Inclusion Strategy](#), and its purpose is to:

- Live up to our designation as a City of Sanctuary.
 - Provide a platform for increasing strategic coherence across the corporate body on refugee issues.
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Overall Objectives of the Inclusion Strategy

1. Meeting Basic Needs
2. Promoting Economic Inclusion
3. Promoting Social Integration
4. Building Bristol as a Safe Haven
5. Influencing the System

Taking the strategy forward:

- Staff Working Group to implement **Action Plan**.
 - Group is chaired by Deputy Mayor supported by the Mayor's Inclusion Advisor on migration issues.
 - Meet bi-monthly.
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What we have done?

1. Meeting Basic Needs

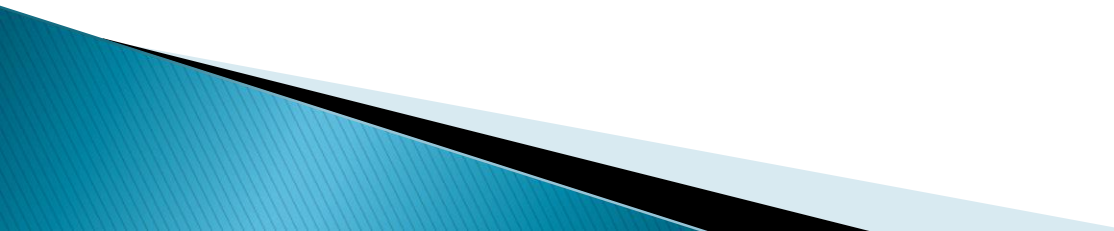
- Supported people with NRPF for move-on accommodation.
- Homeless Move-On Service
- Adult social care received training on asylum seekers & refugee issues & produce practice guidance
- Education-our Hope Virtual School- monitoring educational outcomes for separated children seeking sanctuary.
- Pioneered Flash Academy App for newcomers to learn English.
- Ensure children seeking sanctuary have appropriate education placements, and schools linked up to share good practice.

2. Promoting Economic Inclusion

- VSE commissioned to undertake research looking at the impact of COVID on Black, Asia and ethnic minority-led businesses, organisations and communities, this fed into Bristol's One City Economic Recovery Strategy.

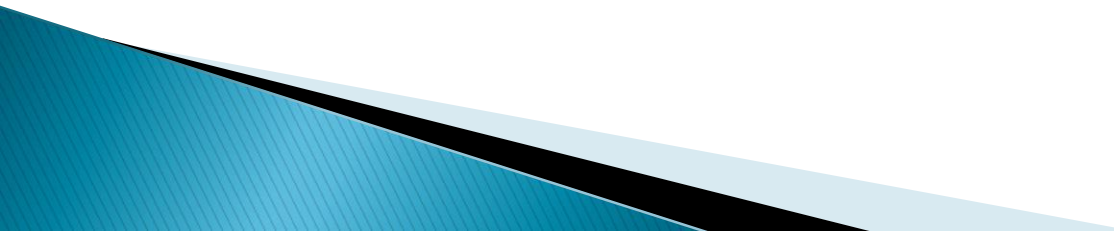
What we have done?

2. Promoting Economic inclusion

- Supported the Entrepreneurial Outreach partnership project.
 - Workshop on the financial barriers facing refugee entrepreneurs, now exploring a pilot of a sharia Compliant finance product aimed at refugee entrepreneurs in the city.
 - Hosted and run a taster session to a group of asylum seekers and refugees about job opportunities within the council.
 - Council run job fairs.
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What we have done?

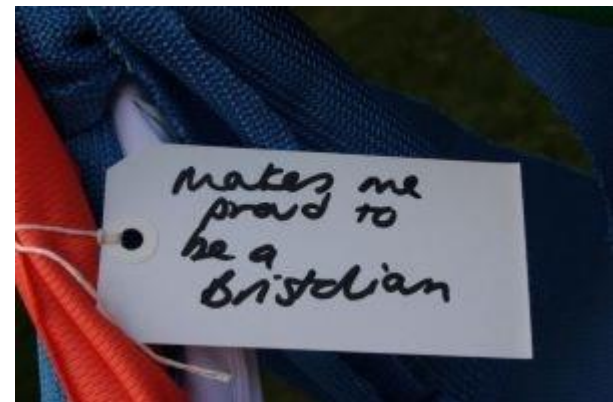
3. Promoting Social Integration

- Volunteering- Values Project
 - Language – a single platform for ESOL across the city has been established, with a [website now up and running](#).
 - With support from our Learning team, an ESOL strategy for the region was developed.
 - Council supports the School of Sanctuary initiative eg hosted Ambassadors of Sanctuary in Schools.
 - Culture team- ESOL tours of M Shed and Bristol Museum & Art Gallery aimed at refugees & migrants.
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What we have done?

4. Building Bristol as a Safe Haven

- Supported unaccompanied asylum seeking children eg those who turn 18, ensure they regularised their status.
- The VPRS team resettled 78 families, which is 376 people and 25 babies have been born in the UK.
- Move-on support- Our housing team have set up a goal to work with stakeholders to have a strategic approach to support people once they get a positive decision.



What we have done?

5. Influencing the system

- Partnership working.
- Advocacy & influencing eg Mayor initiated a joint letter on **#LiftTheBan** campaign via Core Cities.
- Windrush.
- Mayor is an active board member of the Mayor's Migration Council, a vehicle to advocate the role of cities on migration issues.
- Reaffirming our commitment to tackling climate change and migration, the Mayor hosted [Our Community & Our Climate Conference.](#)

#WeAreBristol



8 JUL 2019

**“To be a global city,
you need to interact
with the world”**



Mayor Marvin Rees