

# LEICESTER CITY OF SANCTUARY

England & Wales · Charity number 1172819

## Details

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**Other names** LCOS

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2017-05-02

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** c/o The Bridge Offices  
43 Melton Street  
Leicester  
LE1 3NB

**Phone** 07810023659

**Email** [contactus@leicester.cityofsanctuary.org](mailto:contactus@leicester.cityofsanctuary.org)

**Website** [LEICESTER.CITYOFSANCTUARY.ORG](http://LEICESTER.CITYOFSANCTUARY.ORG)

## Activities

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**Objects:** 1 TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL, ESPECIALLY IN LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND, ABOUT THE ISSUES RELATING TO REFUGEES AND TO PEOPLE SEEKING ASYLUM OR SANCTUARY.2 TO ADVANCE EDUCATION AND RELIEVE POVERTY AND FINANCIAL HARDSHIP AMONGST REFUGEES, PEOPLE SEEKING SANCTUARY AND PEOPLE REFUSED ASYLUM IN THE UK, AND THEIR DEPENDANTS, RESIDING IN LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE OR RUTLAND.3 TO PROVIDE FACILITIES FOR TRAINING, RECREATION OR OTHER LEISURE TIME OCCUPATION WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE OF THOSE PERSONS WHO HAVE NEED OF SUCH FACILITIES.4 THE PROMOTION OF EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT BY PROMOTING ACTIVITIES TO FOSTER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN PEOPLE FROM DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS.

**Activities:** PROVISION OF SUPPORT FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS VIA THE FOLLOWING: A WEEKLY DROP-IN WITH A RANGE OF ACTIVITIES AND SOCIAL SUPPORT; ENGLISH LANGUAGE CLASSES, SEWING CLASSES, COMPUTER CLASSES; FOOTBALL TEAM; NEW EVIDENCE SEARCH TEAM.PROVIDING SPEAKERS TO EDUCATE ON ASYLUM AND REFUGEE ISSUES TO A WIDE RANGE OF SETTINGS AND WORKING TO PROMOTE THEIR INTERESTS AND INTEGRATION OF ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES

## Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Disability, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Economic/community Development/employment, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, Other Defined Groups

## Geography

- Leicester City
- Leicestershire
- Rutland

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£87,300	£77,876	-	-
2024-03-31	£87,589	£100,639	-	-
2023-03-31	£90,721	£108,503	-	-
2022-03-31	£79,050	£80,483	-	-
2021-03-31	£89,480	£54,834	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev ANTHONY PETER HOBSON	Chair	2017-05-02
Anne Senior		2022-03-22
Dr Poojaben Shah		2025-10-25
Jessamyn Helen Witthaus		2024-04-26
Peter James Williamson		2024-04-26
Sarah Jones		2022-03-22
Sherri Sau-Yee Wong Hearing		2024-04-26
Sultana Taib		2025-06-17

**LEICESTER CITY OF SANCTUARY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1172819

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# Accounts

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**Leicester City of Sanctuary**  
(Registered charity, number 1172819)  
**Financial statements**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2025**

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4	Independent examiner's report
5	Receipts & payments account
6	Statement of assets & liabilities
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**Leicester City of Sanctuary  
Trustees' annual report  
for the year ended 31 March 2025**

**Full name** Leicester City of Sanctuary

**Organisation type** Charitable Incorporated Organisation

**Registered charity number** 1172819

**Principal address**

c/o The Bridge Offices, 43 Melton Street, Leicester, LE1 3NB

**Trustees**

Rev Peter Hobson, Chair

Anne Senior

Peter Williamson

Anabel Mwagalanyi, until 08/10/24

Noel Singh, until 08/10/24

Sherri Sau-Yee Wong Hearing

Sarah Jones

Jessamyn Witthaus

Danny Myers, until 08/10/24

**Independent examiner**

John O'Brien, employee of Community Accounting Plus, Units 1 & 2 North West, 41 Talbot Street, Nottingham, NG1 5GL

**Governance and management**

The charity is operated under the rules of its constitution adopted 02/05/2017. New trustees can be co-opted during the year but names must be put to the AGM.

**Objectives and activities**

1. To advance the education of the public, especially in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, about the issues relating to refugees and to people seeking asylum or sanctuary.
2. To advance education and relieve poverty and financial hardship amongst refugees, people seeking sanctuary and people refused asylum in the UK, and their dependants, residing in Leicester, Leicestershire, or Rutland.
3. To provide facilities for training, recreation or other leisure time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life of those persons who have need of such facilities.
4. The promotion of equality and diversity for the public benefit by promoting activities to foster understanding between people from diverse backgrounds.

**Public benefit statement**

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'.

**Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit**

Our mission is to welcome asylum seekers and refugees in and around Leicester, and support them to rebuild their lives, develop their skills and feel part of the community.

## Leicester City of Sanctuary

We operate a weekly drop-in for asylum seekers, offering a range of enrichment activities including English classes, creative activities, and physical exercise. We also provide a shared meal and a safe social space as well as trips that support orientation around the city. We provide a range of information sessions about health, housing, education and fire safety. We raise awareness of and support access to other agencies which help our service users to prepare for life in the UK.

### Summary of the main achievements during the period

Leicester City of Sanctuary has run 900 sessions for Asylum seekers over the 24/25 financial year, with just over 8000 attendances with almost 600 individual asylum seekers interacting with our service. We have continued to improve the lives and assist people seeking sanctuary through difficult financial and legislative conditions.

### Financial review

Leicester City of Sanctuary ends the financial year in the positive, and has a net operating income of £9,424. We have also secured funding through the National Lottery for the next 5 years, and as a result, have appointed a full-time Chief Officer to manage and lead the charity. This places the organisation in a more stable position.

### Reserves policy

Leicester City of Sanctuary will aim to maintain sufficient reserves to:

- Cover approximately 3 months' costs for running the weekly drop in centre and other regular activities;
- Cover approximately 3 months' costs for the employment of two part-time members of staff;
- Meet employment liabilities arising out of any voluntary or disciplinary termination of employment contracts.
- Maintain a small contingency fund to cover any unexpected drop in income from grants or contributions.

The trustees monitor the level of reserves in each category for the purposes of strategic planning.

### Financial risk

As a small charity, we rely on a regular supply of grants and funding to continue to operate. These streams can be fragile, and their loss may result in a reduction in service.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signed   
Rev Peter Hobson, Trustee

Date 16 September 2025

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of  
Leicester City of Sanctuary  
for the year ended 31 March 2025**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Leicester City of Sanctuary (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2025.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

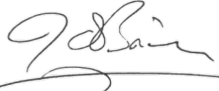
I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed  Date 23/09/25  
John O'Brien MSc, FAIA, FCIE  
Employee of Community Accounting Plus

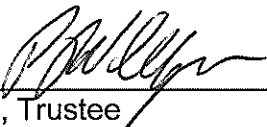
**Leicester City of Sanctuary  
Receipts & payments account  
for the year ended 31 March 2025**

2024		Unrestricted	Restricted	2025
Total		Funds	Funds	Total
Funds		Funds	Funds	Funds
£	Note	£	£	£
	<b>Receipts</b>			
-	Activity income	850	-	850
26157	Donations	40979	-	40979
899	Gift aid	1036	-	1036
60450	Grants	-	44424	44424
83	Sundry receipts	11	-	11
<u>87589</u>	<b>Total receipts</b>	<u>42876</u>	<u>44424</u>	<u>87300</u>
	<b>Payments</b>			
61877	Salaries	10429	45483	55912
13285	Other staff costs	67	64	131
1013	Accounting	930	-	930
-	Activity costs	100	-	100
3321	Catering	1725	1852	3577
599	Consultants	665	-	665
87	Emergency support	20	-	20
1033	Equipment & materials	1697	2299	3996
1098	Insurance	-	1248	1248
523	IT/Software	240	204	444
-	Recruitment	-	329	329
(800)	Staff loan	-	-	-
4123	Stationery & office supplies	-	111	111
-	Subscriptions	288	-	288
200	Telephone	44	106	150
813	Training	100	378	478
1977	Travel	278	1637	1915
11490	Venue hire	2042	5018	7060
-	Sundry payments	150	372	522
<u>100639</u>	<b>Total payments</b>	<u>18775</u>	<u>59101</u>	<u>77876</u>
(13050)	<b>Net receipts/(payments)</b>	24101	(14677)	9424
<u>50623</u>	Cash funds at start of this period	<u>15522</u>	<u>22051</u>	<u>37573</u>
<u>37573</u>	<b>Cash funds at end of this period</b>	<u>39623</u>	<u>7374</u>	<u>46997</u>

**Leicester City of Sanctuary  
Statement of assets and liabilities  
at 31 March 2025**

2024		2025
£		£
	<b>Cash assets</b>	
37227	Bank accounts	46866
<u>346</u>	Cash in hand	<u>131</u>
<u>37573</u>		<u>46997</u>
	 <b>Other monetary assets</b>	
<u>549</u>	Prepayment - insurance	<u>624</u>
<u>549</u>		<u>624</u>
	 <b>Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	
	General equipment.	
	Two laptops, purchased 13/01/25, £500 each.	
	 <b>Liabilities</b>	
<u>(930)</u>	Creditors - professional fees	<u>(966)</u>
<u>(930)</u>		<u>(966)</u>

These financial statements are accepted on behalf of the charity by:

Signed  Dated 16/9/25  
Peter Williamson, Trustee

**Leicester City of Sanctuary**  
**Notes to the accounts**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2025**

**1. Receipts & payments accounts**

Receipts and payments accounts contain a summary of money received and money spent during the period and a list of assets and liabilities at the end of the period. Usually, cash received and cash spent will include transactions through bank accounts and cash in hand.

**2. Grants**

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
National Lottery	-	23344	23344
Garfield Weston Foundation	-	7500	7500
Hilden Charitable Trust	-	7000	7000
Allen Lane Foundation	-	4000	4000
Public Health	-	1980	1980
Leicester Community Fund	-	600	600
	<u>-</u>	<u>44424</u>	<u>44424</u>

**3. Funds analysis**

	Opening balance £	Receipts (Payments)		Closing balance £
	£	£	£	£
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Allen Lane	800	4000	(4500)	300
Co-op	555	-	(555)	-
Garfield Weston Foundation	3405	7500	(8601)	2304
Henry Smith	8578	-	(8578)	-
Hilden Charitable Fund	-	7000	(4201)	2799
LCCF Apex	-	600	(200)	400
Lottery fund	6218	23344	(27991)	1571
LRCF Sewing	2495	-	(2495)	-
Public Health	-	1980	(1980)	-
	<u>22051</u>	<u>44424</u>	<u>(59101)</u>	<u>7374</u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General funds	<u>15522</u>	<u>42876</u>	<u>(18775)</u>	<u>39623</u>
	<u>15522</u>	<u>42876</u>	<u>(18775)</u>	<u>39623</u>

**Leicester City of Sanctuary  
Notes to the accounts (continued)  
for the year ended 31 March 2025**

**4. Trustees' remuneration**

Trustees received no expenses, remuneration or benefits in this period.

**5. Related party transactions**

There were no related party transactions during the period.

**6. Glossary of terms**

**Creditors:** These are amounts owed by the charity, but not paid during the accounting period.

**Debtors:** These are amounts owed to the charity, but not received in the accounting period.

**Prepayments:** These are services that the charity has paid for in advance, but not used during the accounting period.

**Restricted funds:** These are funds given to the charity, subject to specific restrictions set by the donor, but still within the general objects of the charity.

**LEICESTER CITY OF SANCTUARY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1172819

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# Accounts

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**Leicester City of Sanctuary**  
(Registered charity, number 1172819)  
**Financial statements**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2024**

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**Leicester City of Sanctuary  
Trustees' annual report  
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

**Full name** Leicester City of Sanctuary

**Organisation type** Charitable Incorporated Organisation

**Registered charity number** 1172819

**Principal address**

c/o The Bridge Offices, 43 Melton Street, Leicester, LE1 3NB

**Trustees**

Rev Peter Hobson, Chair

Noel Singh, Secretary

Anne Senior

Sarah Jones

Anabel Mwagalanyi

Danny Myers

Peter Williamson, from 26/04/23

Hagar Al-Katheri, until 28/10/23

Jessamyn Helen Witthaus, from 26/04/23

Sherri Sau-Yee Wong Hearing, from 26/04/23

**Independent examiner**

John O'Brien, employee of Community Accounting Plus, Units 1 & 2 North West, 41 Talbot Street, Nottingham, NG1 5GL

**Governance and management**

The charity is operated under the rules of its constitution adopted 02/05/2017.

New trustees can be co-opted during the year but names must be put to the AGM.

**Objectives and activities**

1. To advance the education of the public, especially in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, about issues relating to refugees and to people seeking asylum or sanctuary.
2. To advance education and relieve poverty and financial hardship amongst refugees, people seeking sanctuary and people refused asylum in the UK, and their dependants, residing in Leicester, Leicestershire, or Rutland.
3. To provide facilities for training, recreation or other leisure time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life of those persons who have need of such facilities.
4. The promotion of equality and diversity for the public benefit by promoting activities to foster understanding between people from diverse backgrounds.

**Public benefit statement**

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'.

## Leicester City of Sanctuary

### Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit

Our mission is to welcome asylum seekers and refugees in and around Leicester, and support them to rebuild their lives, develop their skills and feel part of the community.

We operate a weekly drop-in for Asylum Seekers, offer English and exercise classes, as well as providing easy access to other agencies which help our service users integrate to life in the UK successfully.

Supporting Asylum Seekers is a benefit to them, and they are members of the public, but beyond that we help people understand the journey Asylum Seekers have taken to the UK, and allow them to benefit from the cultural exchange that enriches everyone's lives.

### Summary of the main achievements during the period

Leicester City of Sanctuary has run 1007 sessions for Asylum seekers over the 23/24 financial year, with almost 9000 attendances with over 700 individual asylum seekers interacting without service. We have continued to improve the lives and assist people seeking sanctuary through difficult financial and legislative conditions.

### Financial review

Leicester City of Sanctuary ends the financial year in the positive, but has a net operating income of £-13,050. This outcome was forecast by the trustees in our budget - we understood that the last year would be more difficult!

### Reserves policy

Leicester City of Sanctuary will aim to maintain sufficient reserves to:

- Cover approximately 3 months' costs for running the weekly drop in centre and other regular activities;
- Cover approximately 3 months' costs for the employment of two part time members of staff;
- Meet employment liabilities arising out of any voluntary or disciplinary termination of employment contracts.
- Maintain a small contingency fund to cover any unexpected drop in income from grants or contributions.

The trustees monitor the level of reserves in each category for the purposes of strategic planning.

### Financial risk

As a small charity, we rely on a regular supply of grants and funding to continue to operate. These streams can be fragile, and their loss may result in a reduction in service.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Rev Peter Hobson, Trustee

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of  
Leicester City of Sanctuary  
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Leicester City of Sanctuary (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2024.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

John O'Brien MSc, FAIA, FCCA, FCIE  
Employee of Community Accounting Plus

**Leicester City of Sanctuary  
Receipts & payments account  
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

2023				2024
Total		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Funds		Funds	Funds	Funds
£	Note	£	£	£
	<b>Receipts</b>			
28253	Donations	26157	-	26157
735	Gift aid	899	-	899
61733	Grants	900	59550	60450
-	Sundry receipts	83	-	83
90721	<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>28039</b>	<b>59550</b>	<b>87589</b>
	<b>Payments</b>			
67523	Salaries	32442	29435	61877
8563	Other staff costs	10962	2323	13285
374	Accounting	1013	-	1013
4285	Emergency Fund	87	-	87
575	Consultants	299	300	599
1396	Equipment	626	407	1033
3723	Food	1095	2226	3321
975	Insurance	1032	66	1098
483	IT/Software	336	187	523
12220	Venue Hire	3229	8261	11490
1584	Stationery & Materials	960	3163	4123
310	Telephone	150	50	200
610	Training	-	813	813
5082	Travel	113	1864	1977
800	Staff loan	(800)	-	(800)
108503	<b>Total payments</b>	<b>51544</b>	<b>49095</b>	<b>100639</b>
(17782)	<b>Net receipts/(payments)</b>	(23505)	10455	(13050)
68405	Cash funds at start of this period	38992	11631	50623
-	Transfers between funds	35	(35)	-
50623	<b>Cash funds at end of this period</b>	<b>15522</b>	<b>22051</b>	<b>37573</b>

**Leicester City of Sanctuary  
Statement of assets and liabilities  
at 31 March 2024**

2023		2024
£		£
	<b>Cash assets</b>	
50285	Bank accounts	37227
338	Cash in hand	346
<u>50623</u>		<u>37573</u>
	<b>Other monetary assets</b>	
800	Debtors - staff loan - repaid throughout year	-
406	Prepayment - insurance	549
<u>1206</u>		<u>549</u>
	<b>Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	
	General equipment.	
	<b>Liabilities</b>	
(660)	Creditors - professional fees	(930)
<u>(660)</u>		<u>(930)</u>

These financial statements are accepted on behalf of the charity by:

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Dated \_\_\_\_\_  
Peter Williamson, Trustee

**Leicester City of Sanctuary**  
**Notes to the accounts**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2024**

**1. Receipts & payments accounts**

Receipts and payments accounts contain a summary of money received and money spent during the period and a list of assets and liabilities at the end of the period. Usually, cash received and cash spent will include transactions through bank accounts and cash in hand.

**2. Grants**

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£
National Lottery Fund	-	25000	25000
Henry Smith	-	10000	10000
Garfield Weston Foundation	-	7500	7500
National Grid	-	5400	5400
Allen Lane	-	4000	4000
Co-op	-	3000	3000
Leicestershire and Rutland Community Foundatic	-	3000	3000
Leicester University	-	1000	1000
Leicester Community Fund	-	650	650
Magic Little Grants	500	-	500
ASDA	400	-	400
	<u>900</u>	<u>59550</u>	<u>60450</u>

## Leicester City of Sanctuary

### 3. Funds analysis

	Opening balance	Receipts (Payments)		Transfers	Closing balance
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Lottery fund	3615	25000	(22397)	-	6218
Henry Smith	5838	10000	(7260)	-	8578
University of Leicester	1677	1000	(2667)	(10)	-
LLRCF Nest	137	-	(137)	-	-
Near Neighbours	364	-	(339)	(25)	-
Allen Lane	-	4000	(3200)	-	800
Co-op	-	3000	(2445)	-	555
Garfield Weston Foundation	-	7500	(4095)	-	3405
Leicester Community Project	-	650	(650)	-	-
LRCF sewing	-	3000	(505)	-	2495
National Grid	-	5400	(5400)	-	-
	<b><u>11631</u></b>	<b><u>59550</u></b>	<b><u>(49095)</u></b>	<b><u>(35)</u></b>	<b><u>22051</u></b>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General funds	<u>38992</u>	<u>28039</u>	<u>(51544)</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>15522</u>
	<b><u>38992</u></b>	<b><u>28039</u></b>	<b><u>(51544)</u></b>	<b><u>35</u></b>	<b><u>15522</u></b>

The transfers from the University of Leicester and Near Neighbours to the General fund is to clear the remaining amounts.

### 4. Trustees' remuneration

Trustees received no expenses, remuneration or benefits in this period.

### 5. Glossary of terms

**Creditors:** These are amounts owed by the charity, but not paid during the accounting period.

**Debtors:** These are amounts owed to the charity, but not received in the accounting period.

**Prepayments:** These are services that the charity has paid for in advance, but not used during the accounting period.

**Restricted funds:** These are funds given to the charity, subject to specific restrictions set by the donor, but still within the general objects of the charity.

**LEICESTER CITY OF SANCTUARY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1172819

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# Accounts

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**FOOTBALL**

The Saturday morning football session continues to thrive, with regular attendances of about 50 young men each week. We now have a 5-person volunteer team, which has helped to spread the workload, especially at the beginning of each session. We entered two tournaments this summer. We won the first, which was organised by LCiC and held at the Belvoir Drive training ground. The second was organised by Sound Cafe and held at St.Margaret's Pastures. We won the fair play trophy at this event. We're very appreciative of the on-going support from LCiC who fund one of our pitches.

**ESOL AND UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER PARTNERSHIP**

All our ESOL face-to-face and online classes are going well. Classes have moved from Readson House to the Charles Wilson Building, where we now have a Sanctuary lending library. Students can borrow course books and fiction books for all levels from the Sanctuary library. From this year students from refugee background have also been able to use David Wilson - University of Leicester library for free. So far, we have created 15 accounts for students, but hope to welcome more. Students are able to use the library seven days a week until midnight each day.

**TEXTILE GROUP**

Many of the women attending the group have been accommodated in hotels, and membership of the group has fluctuated due to those in hotels being moved to other cities. However, new asylum seekers have continued to arrive, and in order to manage the demand and turnover, a waiting list has been set up. A small grant has been vital in paying for on-going supply of consumables and replacing some equipment. Second-hand machines have continued to be donated and are passed on to the women in turn, so that they can sew at home. This is very important to all of the women, especially those with children. From this autumn the volunteers will be offering knitting and crochet lessons, and for this reason, the group has been renamed The Textile Group.

**NEST  
(NEW EVIDENCE SEARCH TEAM)**

An average of 10 volunteers attend the monthly online NEST meetings that take place on the first Wednesday of each month. NEST currently has ten open cases. While traditionally all our cases have come from the British Red Cross in Leicester, a number of referrals over the past year have come from the British Red Cross in Derby. The clients referred by Derby meet with NEST volunteers online or over the phone. Since August 2022, NEST has had a good mix of volunteers drawn from the University of Leicester and from the wider Leicester community; previously, volunteers were mainly university students. From March - July this year a number of volunteers attended an eight session online training course delivered by TACTIC aimed at individuals supporting people who have been through the asylum process and been rejected. The feedback from attendees was very positive, so much so that we are now planning for TACTIC to deliver a bespoke training session for NEST volunteers. In January we had a NEST social in Kayal restaurant, which was a valuable occasion for volunteers to meet together as a group.

**AND FINALLY...**

We're really grateful for the support from our volunteers, partners and the local community for the goodwill we receive to deliver our services. We've benefited from donations of goods from local schools, churches, other groups and individuals, which have really helped us to keep distributing essential goods to those so desperately in need.

**Maggie Edgington - Interim Operations Lead, 2023**

**Shali Bullough - Strategic Lead, 2023**



**Leicester  
City of Sanctuary**

**ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2022-2023**



**Committed to creating a culture of welcome for  
asylum seekers and refugees in our city and county**



If you would like to know more about Leicester City of Sanctuary, contact us via:  
Email: [contactus@leicester.cityofsanctuary.org](mailto:contactus@leicester.cityofsanctuary.org)  
Website: [www.leicester.cityofsanctuary.org](http://www.leicester.cityofsanctuary.org)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/leicestercityofsanctuary](http://www.facebook.com/leicestercityofsanctuary)

# LEICESTER CITY OF SANCTUARY

## CHAIR'S REPORT

It's been a year when refugee issues have seldom been far from the headlines, and usually not in a good way from our perspective. The way the 'small boats in the channel' issue has been weaponised seems emblematic of a failure to properly address the UK's obligations under international law – but, in the meantime, our primary task remains to address the needs of those who do reach our city and its surrounding areas in search of sanctuary. Our staff report shares more of what that has involved over the past 12 months or so, but overall we continue to deliver against both our own strategic goals, and the particular activities and outcomes agreed with our various external funders.

We're glad to have continued to work in partnership with a number of bodies in the city, such as the British Red Cross, the City Museum, Leicester City in the Community and the University of Leicester, to mention just a few, and our ongoing chairing of the Multi-Agency Forum keeps us in the centre of activity and knowledge.

The staff team has undergone several changes since our last AGM. We were especially glad to add Omid Lohoni to our team in November 2022, replacing Chloe Woods as a Project Officer, as he brings his own lived experience of the asylum system which is proving invaluable to our work. We were sorry to lose our Operations Lead Caroline Hickey, who left us in March 2023 to take up a new and exciting opportunity in London and we wish Caroline all the best in her new role and thank her for her contribution in the time she was with us. We have other upcoming changes to our senior team with Shali Bullough, currently working for one day a week as Strategic Lead, due to end working for us by the end of 2023. Shali has been with us for an extended period and has been a driving force in the development of the charity over the years and will be sorely missed. We hope to maintain our links with Shali and to continue to draw on her skills in a different way going forward.

In this challenging time in terms of leadership of the work, the Trustees are deeply grateful to Maggie Edginton, who has stepped up from being lead volunteer for children and families to be our interim Operations Lead and keep the show on the road. As I write in early September, we are recruiting to a new post which will combine our two previous

roles into one to lead the charity across all its functions. I'm happy to say that Anna Goodman (Project Officer) and Alex Jakeman (Finance and Admin) remain valued team members, all working alongside the various volunteer teams, who enable us to do so much across wide ranging areas of work.

The trustees continue to meet bi-monthly as a body. At last year's AGM we thanked Jenny Dnes and Eric Nkundumubano for their service as they stepped down – with Sadiq Ahamed also resigning at the end of 2022. Four new trustees were confirmed in post at the AGM – Sarah Jones, Annabel Mwangalanyi, Anne Senior and Noel Singh, and Danny Myers was re-elected for a second term. They have served alongside myself and Hagar Al-Katheri. Both of us will come to the end of our current terms at this AGM, though both are eligible for re-election for a further period.

Our overall position for the financial year 2022-23 shows an operating deficit of just under £17,000 – with income of £90,742 and expenditure of £107,673 – the full figures will be presented in detail at the AGM. This means we enter the current year with reserves of just under £50,000. This is also the last of our 4 years of lottery grant, and trustees have been looking hard for ways to replace that funding and maintain levels of activity. We recognise the funding climate is challenging for small charities such as ours working in contested areas. As well as pursuing grants and monies from bigger funders, we are deeply grateful for all the various donations the charity receives. We are keen to grow our income from regular giving, which at the moment equates only to 5.5% of the total, so are working hard to increase this. For supporters reading this we would be grateful if you consider supporting us in this way.

I'm convinced Leicester remains a welcoming place which benefits from the diversity its many residents bring – however they get here. But we can't and shouldn't take that for granted. It is bodies like us, alongside many, many others, that help make that vision a reality. And that needs people like you, reading this, to play your part – whatever that may be.

**Pete Hobson – Chair 2022-23**

# LEICESTER CITY OF SANCTUARY

## LEADS' REPORT

### HUB

We are still catering for large numbers of people being accommodated in three hotels in the city, some having lived there for over a year. The hub continues to provide a warm welcome, space to socialise and access to resources such as clothing, SIM cards and toiletries. Omid, our caseworker, supports individuals and, when appropriate, refers them to other services in the city. Our orientation course, for those new to the city, has continued and includes conversational English classes, combined with lifeskills and trips into the local community. We have had a fantastic workshop led by Lena Santoro from National Energy Awareness round 'Understanding Your Household Bills': how to use energy wisely, and healthily, with advice on how to manage debt.



We have been facilitating a research project run by the Department for Respiratory diseases at Leicester University, who are researching how the UK health system is experienced by those seeking asylum and this will continue during 2023/4.

Additionally, we have had a strong media presence, with interviews on BBC Radio Leicester and Channel 4 News, and regular contact with a nationally acclaimed visual journalist, who is working on a project, which will present a positive view of those seeking asylum in the UK.

### CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

We have been able to offer a wide range of creative activities, including some sketching activities, led by one of our group members, who was a graphic designer in his home country. We've also had great fun decorating log coasters, making macramé plant pot holders, learning about Mehndi drawing and planting herbs and bulbs. The activities were well received, and sparked interesting conversations about home and cultural traditions.

A highlight, this year, was the visit from Julia Masli, an award winning clown, who ran a two-hour World of Play workshop, which involved using games, drama, play and physical expression and generated a lot of laughter and fun.

### SPORT & WELLBEING ACTIVITIES

Our Soccercise sessions, led by a member of the Leicester City In The Community Team, restarted in January. As well as our indoor space, we've been able to use the outdoor facilities at nearby Cruyff court in the summer months. To respond to interest in playing cricket, we took a group to a Walking Sports Festival in Spinney Hills Park, where they were able to join other members of the community to play cricket and football. Following this, a special cricket session for our group was arranged in Victoria Park, by Leicestershire Cricket.

Many of our group experience low mood and depression, as they live with uncertainty, whilst waiting for their immigration status to be settled. We have arranged a number of outdoor activities to support wellbeing, such as a mindfulness walk and a Tree Trail Walk at Abbey Park.

### FAMILY ACTIVITIES

The parent and toddler play group continues to be very popular and provides a space for parents to make friends as their children play and learn. During winter school holidays, families with older children have joined social events at the Hub session, where we have organised creative activities, games and a communal lunch – our new caseworker Omid discovered he had balloon modelling skills at one of these sessions and was very popular with the children. In the summer holidays we have taken up our usual spot in Abbey Park for a picnic and games – an average of 12 families attend these sessions each week. We also developed a partnership with the Community Food and Wellbeing Hub, who donated school holiday food bags for our families and also invited us to a community meal.

### TRIPS

Highlights this year have included a bush craft afternoon at Brocks Hills County Park; visits to Leicester Museum, the Guildhall and Abbey Pumping Station; a stadium tour and attendance at two football matches at the King Power Stadium, thanks to Leicester City in the Community (LCitC) – one was a women's match and the other a men's Under 21s international event between France and England; a trip to East Lanes Bowling Alley; and a visit to Go Kids Go soft play centre for the families.



### EMERGENCY FUND

We continue to maintain a small emergency fund to assist asylum seekers and refugees with essential costs, focusing on housing, healthcare and food – especially for those with specific dietary needs. We also support families with a contribution towards the cost of school uniforms for their children.



**Leicester City of Sanctuary**  
(Registered charity, number 1172819)  
**Financial statements**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2023**

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2	Trustees' annual report
3	Independent examiner's report
4	Receipts & payments account
5	Statement of assets & liabilities
6 - 7	Notes to the accounts

**Leicester City of Sanctuary  
Trustees' annual report  
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

**Full name** Leicester City of Sanctuary

**Organisation type** Charitable Incorporated Organisation

**Registered charity number** 1172819

**Principal address**

c/o The Bridge Offices, 43 Melton Street, Leicester. LE1 3NB

**Trustees**

Rev Peter Hobson  
Anabel Mwagalanyi  
Noel Singh  
Anne Senior

Hagar Al-Katheri  
Danny Myers  
Sarah Jones

**Independent examiner**

John O'Brien, employee of Community Accounting Plus, Units 1 & 2 North West, 41 Talbot Street, Nottingham, NG1 5GL

**Governance and management**

The charity is operated under the rules of its constitution adopted 02/05/2017.

**Objectives and activities**

To advance the education of the public, especially in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, about issues relating to refugees and to people seeking asylum or sanctuary. To advance education and relieve poverty and financial hardship amongst refugees, people seeking sanctuary and people refused asylum in the UK, and their dependants, residing in Leicester, Leicestershire, or Rutland. To provide facilities for training, recreation or other leisure time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for those persons who have need of such facilities. The promotion of equality and diversity for the public benefit by promoting activities to foster understanding between people from diverse backgrounds.

**Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit**

A full summary of the activities in the year is provided in a separate Annual Review.

**Public benefit statement**

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Rev Peter Hobson, Trustee

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of  
Leicester City of Sanctuary  
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Leicester City of Sanctuary (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2023.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

John O'Brien MSc, FAIA, FCCA, FCIE  
Employee of Community Accounting Plus



**Leicester City of Sanctuary  
Statement of assets and liabilities  
at 31 March 2023**

2022		2023
£	<b>Cash assets</b>	£
67871	Bank accounts	50285
<u>534</u>	Cash in hand	<u>338</u>
<u>68405</u>		<u><b>50623</b></u>
	<b>Other monetary assets</b>	
-	Debtors - staff loan	800
<u>-</u>	Prepayment - insurance	<u>406</u>
<u>-</u>		<u><b>1206</b></u>
	<b>Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	
	General equipment.	
	<b>Liabilities</b>	
<u>-</u>	Creditors - professional fees	<u>(660)</u>
<u>-</u>		<u><b>(660)</b></u>

These financial statements are accepted on behalf of the charity by:

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Dated \_\_\_\_\_  
Anabel Mwagalanyi, Trustee

**Leicester City of Sanctuary**  
**Notes to the accounts**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2023**

**1. Receipts & payments accounts**

Receipts and payments accounts contain a summary of money received and money spent during the period and a list of assets and liabilities at the end of the period. Usually, cash received and cash spent will include transactions through bank accounts and cash in hand.

**2. Grants & donations**

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
Henry Smith	-	10000	10000
Leicester City Council	-	6400	6400
Leicester University	-	1688	1688
National Lottery Community Fund	-	31299	31299
Near Neighbours	-	3550	3550
Leicester & Rutland Community Foundation	-	3000	3000
Leicestershire County Council	-	5796	5796
	<u>-</u>	<u>61733</u>	<u>61733</u>

**3. Funds analysis**

	Opening balance £	Receipts (Payments) £		Transfers £	Closing balance £
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Emergency Fund	(887)	-	-	887	-
Knighton Ward	4291	-	(4291)	-	-
Leicester Community Project	589	-	(589)	-	-
Lottery fund	14226	31299	(41910)	-	3615
Loughborough Town of Sanctuary	565	-	(565)	-	-
Castle Ward	1000	-	(1000)	-	-
VAL	433	-	(433)	-	-
Henry Smith	-	10000	(4162)	-	5838
UOL	-	1688	(11)	-	1677
LLRCF Nest	-	3000	(2863)	-	137
LCC Covid	-	6400	(6400)	-	-
Active Trust	-	5796	(5796)	-	-
Near Neighbours	-	3550	(3186)	-	364
	<u>20217</u>	<u>61733</u>	<u>(71206)</u>	<u>887</u>	<u>11631</u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General funds	48188	28988	(37297)	(887)	38992
	<u>48188</u>	<u>28988</u>	<u>(37297)</u>	<u>(887)</u>	<u>38992</u>

## Leicester City of Sanctuary

The transfer from the General fund to the Emergency fund is to cover the deficit on this activity.

### 4. Trustees' remuneration

Trustees received no expenses, remuneration or benefits in this period.

### 5. Glossary of terms

**Creditors:** These are amounts owed by the charity, but not paid during the accounting period.

**Debtors:** These are amounts owed to the charity, but not received in the accounting period.

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**Leicester City of Sanctuary**  
(Registered charity, number 1172819)  
**Financial statements**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2023**

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Noel Singh  
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Hagar Al-Katheri  
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**Independent examiner**

John O'Brien, employee of Community Accounting Plus, Units 1 & 2 North West, 41 Talbot Street, Nottingham, NG1 5GL

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	<b>Liabilities</b>	
<u>-</u>	Creditors - professional fees	<u>(660)</u>
<u>-</u>		<u>(660)</u>

These financial statements are accepted on behalf of the charity by:

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Dated \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Leicester City of Sanctuary**  
**Notes to the accounts**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2023**

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## Leicester City of Sanctuary

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**LEICESTER CITY OF SANCTUARY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1172819

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# Accounts

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### FOOTBALL, SEWING AND NEST

Football remains hugely popular, and to cater for the high demand we now run three pitches on Saturday mornings where up to 50 young men enjoy the weekly kickaround. Phil, our volunteer football lead, is always finding new opportunities for the group, including participation at the St Georges tournament in Uttoxeter, as part of Amnesty International's Football Welcomes event, where the LCoS team played Stoke and Everton Refugee Teams. We're very appreciative of the on-going support from LCitC who fund one of our pitches.

The sewing group, run by volunteers Mandy, Linda and Alison, is as industrious as ever. It provides a space to make new friends, learn new skills, and get lost in the joy of creativity, and is now branching into knitting, as well as dressmaking.

Led by volunteer Alan Desmond, a law lecturer at UoL, our NEST team continues to work with clients whose asylum claims have been refused. Clients in this situation are very vulnerable, with no access to Home Office support, and no recourse to public funds. Our NEST volunteers help clients understand complex Home Office/Tribunal decision letters, so that they have a clear understanding for the reasons their asylum claims have been refused. They then explore any options for finding new evidence (information not previously seen by the Home Office to support a fresh claim, for example letters from doctors/psychologists, newspaper articles, photographs, documents from the client's home country) and provide support to gather this.



### EMERGENCY FUND

We provide the money for a small emergency fund which is available to all asylum seekers in the city. This is administered by British Red Cross to allow us to reach a wider group than only those accessing our services. The fund helps people in a crisis, for example with transport costs to hospital, medicine, essential data or extra food, particularly for those who have specific dietary needs, such as food intolerance, that the hotels do not cater for.

### VACCINE CONFIDENCE WORK

We've been recognised for the work we started in 2021 encouraging vaccine take up by asylum seekers and refugees. A grant from Leicester City Council has allowed us to continue this initiative by becoming part of their city-wide Vaccination Confidence Programme. We've run sessions to dispel covid myths and brought in medical experts from Leicester University to answer people's questions and concerns around covid and the vaccine. We've organised for a mobile vaccination van to visit us three times in 2022 and have accompanied people to pop-up clinics in the town centre to help them overcome the various barriers they face. We've built a team of asylum seeker ambassadors to help us with interpreting and translating, in order to inspire trust in the vaccine with our service users. As a result, we've gained a lot of insight into the barriers to vaccination amongst asylum seekers and refugees, and have been able to share that knowledge through the Vaccination Confidence Programme at various conferences, so that the insight can be passed on to the NHS and decision-makers nationally. Over the past year we've supported more than 50 people to get their vaccination.

Shali Bullough – Coordinator 2021-22

### MOVING FORWARD – CAROLINE HICKEY, OPERATIONS LEAD

I joined Leicester City of Sanctuary at the beginning of August this year, from a background in Community development, after working within refugee communities since 1995. I recognise the huge challenges and ever more complex issues facing those seeking asylum in the UK, and the difficulties that our service users have to navigate on a daily basis.

The hostile environment means accommodation on a no choice basis, risk of detention, no right to work and scrutiny when seeking healthcare. It is illegal for irregular migrants to drive, and banks have to carry out regular immigration checks on their customers and report to the Home Office. These are examples of just some of the conditions laid out whilst waiting for a decision from the Home Office, for which there is no time frame.

From my first month's experience, I have seen the enormous need for our work at Leicester City of Sanctuary, I have seen the respect shown to us from people that use our services, external partners and other charities working locally. Delivering a weekly hub has a huge impact on the lives of people living in the city centre hotels, by connecting people, offering support, food, clothing, and local casework; these services are what people need to survive their own everyday hostile environments.

We are a place of sanctuary and I and the team look forward to establishing a stronger presence within Leicester City, whilst continuing to meet the needs of those needing our services, and honouring our mission **"to welcome asylum seekers and refugees in and around Leicester, and support them to rebuild their lives, develop their skills and feel part of the community"**.



Leicester  
City of Sanctuary

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022



Committed to creating a culture of welcome for  
asylum seekers and refugees in our city and county



If you would like to know more about Leicester City of Sanctuary, contact us via:  
Email: [contactus@leicester.cityofsanctuary.org](mailto:contactus@leicester.cityofsanctuary.org)  
Website: [www.leicester.cityofsanctuary.org](http://www.leicester.cityofsanctuary.org)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/leicestercityofsanctuary](https://www.facebook.com/leicestercityofsanctuary)

# LEICESTER CITY OF SANCTUARY

## CHAIR'S REPORT

**Strategic Plan 2022-25** – Our last strategic plan covered the period 2019-2022 and during the past year we have reviewed its impact and produced a new plan covering the next three years. Many thanks to all who engaged with the process – members, volunteers, staff, partners – and not least the service users themselves. We'll be presenting this at the AGM, and it's available to see on our website. In summary it reaffirms our vision and mission statements and proposes, building on the previous three years' growth, with continued careful expansion of our services within a renewed six strategic aims.

**Events and Priorities** – On a global scale, events continue to move with mass refugee crises from Afghanistan last August, and Ukraine since February. We have been supportive of others working to welcome people from those countries into our city, as they arrive, at least, having formal refugee status from day one – but our main priority remains working with those continuing to arrive in Leicester, whose claims for asylum are yet to be assessed, and who are forced to live on the margins of society, whilst that is the case, often for long periods of time.

**Changes to the Team** – Shali Bullough has been our paid coordinator since summer 2017, working notionally a 0.8 week – in practice usually much more. Late last year she indicated a need to have more time for family and other needs, and so the review of strategic plan went hand in hand with a review of staffing structure. This began on 1 August when we welcomed Caroline Hickey as our new Operations Lead (0.8), working alongside Shali as Strategic Lead (0.4). Together with them, we now have two project worker posts – keeping Anna Goodman (0.4) but sadly bidding farewell to Chloe Woods, who left us on 31 August to pursue an alternative career in clinical psychology. Alex Jakeman continues as finance and admin officer. I cannot speak too highly of this whole team who enable us to deliver a high standard of support and care to many asylum seekers and refugees. I also thank our incredible volunteers who run so many of our day-to-day activities.

**Continuing Trustees** – For the past year have been Pete Hobson (chair), Jenny Dnes (vice-chair), Hagar Al-Katheri, Sadiq Ahamed, Cllr Danny Myers and Eric Nkundumubano. Jenny and Eric will be stepping down as trustees, after serving since 2017 and 2018 respectively. We owe them great thanks. This April four new trustees joined us by co-option, following a careful process of advertising and interview – all of whom will need confirming in office at this AGM. They are Sarah Jones, Annabel Mwangalanyi, Anne Senior and Noel Singh.

**Financial Overview** – the full financial report for the year ending 31 March 2022 will be presented to the AGM. In the event we nearly broke even on the year, with a deficit of just over £1,000 on a turn-over of £80.4k. This was a real improvement on a budgeted £33k deficit, due largely to greatly increased income – with donations up 47% to £29.3k and additional grants of £13.8k beyond what was budgeted for. This meant we entered this financial year 2022-23 with assets of £68.4k. Our strategic reserves policy sets £33k of that aside, still leaving a cushion of over £35k. This is all to the good, as we are now in the third year of our 4 year lottery grant, and so need to continue to attend to financial stability, if we are to maintain the level of our work past the time it ends in May 2024. This year we budget to spend just under £100k. We are aiming to double our regular standing order giving from supporters to £10k whilst matching last year's 'other donation' income of £25k. Taken along with expected grant income of £49k that comes to £84k – with £16k to be drawn from reserves. I hope all who read this will consider playing your own part in all of this – most especially by considering becoming a regular donor.

**Pete Hobson – Chair 2021-22**



# LEICESTER CITY OF SANCTUARY

## COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Over the past year we've focused on **building back better in the aftermath of the Covid pandemic, adapting to the ever-changing landscape, whilst also dealing with the consequences of the Home Office Hostile Environment policy, which aims to make life unbearably difficult for those who cannot show the right paperwork. Cited as one of the harshest immigration policies in the history of the United Kingdom, it has been widely criticised as inhumane, ineffective, and unlawful.**



### HUB

A recent change in Leicester has been an increase in the use of local hotels as temporary accommodation for asylum seekers, including families housed in single rooms. Most service users at our hub are now living in hotels. Stuck in a small room from morning till night, we see widespread depression, made worse as people often struggle to access basic essentials, such as nutritious food, clothing, medicine, mobile phones and data. Although hotel accommodation is supposed to be temporary, many of those accessing our services have been there for over six months or more.

As well as providing a warm welcome, with opportunities to learn, relax and socialise, we've also developed a new caseworker post to support people with their individual needs and signpost them to other services within the city.

### ENGLISH AND ORIENTATION

Many people arrive with very limited English, but have a huge drive to learn. New arrivals are not eligible for college for six months, so we've developed an orientation programme for them, which includes weekly conversational English classes, combined with lifeskills and local trips. A huge thanks to volunteers Carol, Phil, Mary, Tess and John, who lead the conversation classes at our hub and make them so much fun.

For those with a higher level of English, the ESOL classes, via our partnership with UoL, provide a range of options, including advanced courses preparing for the internationally recognised IELTS qualification. Students who have a sufficiently high level of English also have the opportunity to take part in pre-session courses at the University. We're very grateful for our partnership with Leicester University, which gives people so many more options, and to volunteer ESOL group leader Julie Umarova, who coordinates this for us.

Alongside helping people to learn English, our orientation programme includes a visit to Leicester Central Library, local charity shops and Leicester market, with a small amount of spending money to help them learn how to survive on the very limited NASS support. Leicester College comes to the hub regularly to sign people up to follow-on English classes, once they are eligible, alongside TREC, who advise on next steps after getting Leave to remain. We also invite partner organisations to talk about other relevant services in the city, including access to health screening programmes and mental health support.



### CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

The lifting of all restrictions has allowed us to reintroduce many more social events and to recreate the buzz that has traditionally surrounded the hub. We've enjoyed all sorts of creative activities, such as jewellery making, wreath making and planting. Rocksteady Music School treated us to a music day, bringing drum kits, keyboards and guitars along to our hub, and we had an unbelievable amount of fun showcasing our musical talents to the sounds of Bob Marley. There was more music during our party to celebrate Refugee Week, when musicians Phil, Annabelle and Ruth serenaded us with Beatles songs, which we enthusiastically sang along to. To add to the celebration, Mirch Masala Restaurant sent us a free feast which was absolutely delicious.

### FAMILIES WORK

Maggie Edgington, our volunteer families lead, runs a parents and toddlers play session at our hub during term-time for children who are too young for a nursery place. This year we've also developed a partnership with Leicester College who have provided holiday cooking sessions for the families in our playgroup. During the school holidays Maggie organises outings to Abbey Park, allowing the families to socialise together, share food and enjoy the fresh air. The park trips are hugely popular, with between 25-40 people joining in each week, and are particularly beneficial for the families living in local hotels, giving the children the space to run around and play freely with others away from their cramped hotel room.

### TRIPS

Highlights have included a boat trip on the Leicestershire waterways thanks to Novus Rotary Club; an afternoon in Sheffield at the Women's Euros 22 to watch a group stage match between Switzerland and the Netherlands; a trip to the Gorse Hill City Farm for the toddler group; and a visit to the Central Firestation.





**Leicester City of Sanctuary**  
**Annual Return**  
**2021/22**

Charity Registration Number: 1172819



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

Leicester City of Sanctuary

On accounts for the year ended

2022

Charity no (if any)

1172819

Set out on pages

3 - 4

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 / 03 / 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [ ] if not applicable.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below \*) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
• the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
• the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

[Signature]

Date:

5/10/22

Name:

Mike Alexander

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body

CPFA (ret'd)

(if any):

**Address:**

**Section B**

**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

**Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.**

**LCoS 2021/22 - Full Balance Sheet Breakdown**

*Subject to independent examination*

	Asda £	Carling £	Co-op £	Emergency Fund £	Football Foundation £	Knighton Ward £	Leicester Community Project £	General Fund £	Lottery Fund £	Loughborough ToS £	PCC £	Swan Mountain £	Castle Ward £	VAL £	Total £	
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>																
Opening Balance	479.30	-897.86	665.20	757.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	49,737.39	16,026.14	1,135.00	1,934.71	0.00	0.00	0.00	69,837.82	
<b>Voluntary Income</b>																
Regular Donations								5,439.45							5,439.45	
Other Donations								23,324.39							23,324.39	
Other Income								571.81							571.81	
Grants	0.00	2,958.22	0.00	0.00	500.00	4,291.42	589.00	30,909.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00	4,000.00	1,000.00	3,967.00	49,714.64	
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>2,958.22</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>500.00</b>	<b>4,291.42</b>	<b>589.00</b>	<b>29,335.65</b>	<b>30,909.00</b>	<b>1,500.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>4,000.00</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>	<b>3,967.00</b>	<b>79,050.29</b>	
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>																
<b>Operating expenses</b>																
Accounting								576.50							576.50	
Staff Costs	231.20	422.10		1,645.00				27,439.31	21,800.00	2,070.00	1,934.71	4,000.00		2,717.00	58,544.32	
Emergency Fund															3,715.00	
Consultants															0.00	
Equipment		186.82	338.14		111.55			308.84	185.00					73.62	1,203.97	
Food	248.10	823.44			324.78			241.40	1,271.69					222.37	3,131.78	
Insurance								915.70							915.70	
IT/Software								320.06	930.00						1,250.06	
Other															0.00	
Venue Hire		628.00						777.53	3,901.00					500.00	5,806.53	
Stationery and Materials			124.25		63.67			83.88	357.00					21.59	650.39	
Telephone								210.00							210.00	
Training									2,300.00						2,300.00	
Travel			202.81					11.54	1,964.50						2,178.85	
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>479.30</b>	<b>2,060.36</b>	<b>665.20</b>	<b>1,645.00</b>	<b>500.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>30,884.76</b>	<b>32,709.19</b>	<b>2,070.00</b>	<b>1,934.71</b>	<b>4,000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>3,534.58</b>	<b>80,483.10</b>	
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>-479.30</b>	<b>897.86</b>	<b>-665.20</b>	<b>-1,645.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>4,291.42</b>	<b>589.00</b>	<b>-1,549.11</b>	<b>-1,800.19</b>	<b>-570.00</b>	<b>-1,934.71</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>	<b>432.42</b>	<b>-1,432.81</b>	
<b>Total Funds carried forward</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-887.06</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>4,291.42</b>	<b>589.00</b>	<b>48,188.28</b>	<b>14,225.95</b>	<b>565.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>	<b>432.42</b>	<b>68,405.01</b>	
<b>Statement of Assets and Liabilities</b>																
<b>Assets</b>																
Bank Account															£67,786.91	
Paypal Account															£83.72	
Petty Cash															£534.38	
<b>Total Assets</b>															<b>£68,405.01</b>	

**Leicester City of Sanctuary - Income Expenditure 2021-22**

*Subject to independent examination*

	2021/22			20-21
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Opening Balance	49,737.39	20,100.43	69,837.82	35,192.46
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>				
Regular Donations	5,439.45	0.00	5,439.45	3,233.00
Other Donations	23,324.39	0.00	23,324.39	16,399.90
Other Income	571.81	0.00	571.81	2,427.36
Grants	0.00	49,714.64	49,714.64	67,419.25
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<b>29,335.65</b>	<b>49,714.64</b>	<b>79,050.29</b>	<b>89,479.51</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>				
Accounting	576.50	0.00	576.50	273.79
Staff Costs	27,439.31	31,105.01	58,544.32	36,846.69
Emergency Fund	0.00	3,715.00	3,715.00	4,327.06
Consultants	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,037.41
Equipment	308.84	895.13	1,203.97	6,312.20
Food	241.40	2,890.38	3,131.78	293.31
Insurance	915.70	0.00	915.70	876.81
IT/Software	320.06	930.00	1,250.06	1,250.19
Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,147.67
Venue Hire	777.53	5,029.00	5,806.53	1,429.50
Stationery and Materials	83.88	566.51	650.39	210.00
Telephone	210.00	0.00	210.00	120.00
Training	0.00	2,300.00	2,300.00	394.36
Travel	11.54	2,167.31	2,178.85	315.16
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>	<b>30,884.76</b>	<b>49,598.34</b>	<b>80,483.10</b>	<b>54,834.15</b>
<b>Net Movment in Funds</b>	<b>-1,549.11</b>	<b>116.30</b>	<b>-1,432.81</b>	<b>34,645.36</b>
<b>Total Funds carried Forward</b>	<b>48,188.28</b>	<b>20,216.73</b>	<b>68,405.01</b>	<b>69,837.82</b>
<b>Statement of Assets and Liabilities</b>			Our reserves policy is to hold at least 4 months' expenditure as reserves (about £33,0000)	
<b>Assets</b>				
Bank Account	£67,786.91			
Paypal Account	£83.72			
Petty Cash	£534.38			
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>£68,405.01</b>			

**LEICESTER CITY OF SANCTUARY**

England & Wales - Charity number 1172819

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# Accounts

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**Section A**

**Independent Examiner's Report**

**Report to the trustees/  
members of**

Charity Name  
Leicester City of Sanctuary

**On accounts for the year  
ended**

31 March 2021

**Charity no  
(if any)**

1172819

**Set out on pages**

1-2

*(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)*

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/03/2021**.

**Responsibilities and  
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent  
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (~~other than that disclosed below~~ \*) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

*\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

**Signed:**

[Signature box]

**Date:**

31/08/21

**Name:**

Mike Alexander

**Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):**

CPFA (Ret'd)

**Address:**

11 Goadby Road

Waltham on the Wolds

Leics. LE14 4AG

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

**Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.**



Financial statement - 2020/21

	2020/21			2019/20
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	£		£	£
Opening Balance	35,192.46	0.00	35,192.46	43,261.36
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>				
Regular Donations	3,233.00		3,233.00	22,625.61
Other Donations	16,399.90		16,399.90	1,657.55
HMRC Gift Aid	2,427.36		2,427.36	368.30
Grants		67,401.25	67,401.25	27,130.87
<b>Total incoming Resources</b>	<b>22,060.26</b>	<b>67,419.25</b>	<b>89,479.51</b>	<b>51,782.33</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>				
Accounting	273.79	0.00	273.79	568.95
Staff Costs	2,511.35	34,335.34	36,846.69	38,190.25
Emergency Fund		4,327.06	4,327.06	1,951.70
Consultants		1,037.41	1,037.41	
Equipment	2,455.04	3,857.16	6,312.20	904.06
Food	109.71	183.60	293.31	1,739.40
Insurance		876.81	876.81	984.87
IT	302.19	948.00	1,250.19	114.99
Other	1,147.67	0.00	1,147.67	195.00
Venue Hire	336.00	1,093.50	1,429.50	7,482.00
Stationery and Materials	160.00	50.00	210.00	384.71
Telephone	20.00	100.00	120.00	83.09
Training	109.80	284.56	394.36	355.00
Travel	31.60	283.56	315.16	6,897.21
		0.00	0.00	
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>7,457.15</b>	<b>47,377.00</b>	<b>54,834.15</b>	<b>59,851.23</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>14,603.11</b>	<b>20,042.25</b>	<b>34,645.36</b>	<b>-11,887.28</b>
<b>Total Funds carried forward</b>	<b>49,795.57</b>	<b>20,042.25</b>	<b>69,837.82</b>	<b>35,192.46</b>
<b>Statement of Assets and Liabilities</b>				
<b>Assets</b>				
Bank Account	£59,334.91			
Paypal Account	£83.72			
Petty Cash	£576.33			
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>£59,994.96</b>			
<b>Debtor</b>				
Red Cross	£9,842.86			
<b>Total Debtors</b>	<b>£9,842.86</b>			
			<b>Notes on Reserves</b>	
			Our reserves policy is to hold at least 4 months' expenditure as reserves (about £28,0000).	



**TRIPS**

We are really proud to have contributed to the design of the Leicester City in the Community Fox - part of a trail of fox statues at Fosse Park. For our first trip of 2021 we took a small group involved in the design to see Filbert and the other foxes. It was very interesting to see how the various ideas had come together in the final statue.



We've enjoyed several visits to Leicester Museums, one with the English Conversation group and another visit for the families, where the children enjoyed an animal making workshop. A further visit to Newarke Houses involved a tour and a craft and photography workshop.

Mike Drucquer took us on an enlightening tour around Leicester's Great Meeting Unitarian Chapel. With over 300 years' worth of history, it was fascinating to see its beautiful architecture and hear about how many of its members have shaped the city. For some of our tour members, it was also their first experience of hearing an organ!

**ENGLISH CLASSES AND UNIVERSITY OF SANCTUARY**

Classes have been running since May 2020 on Zoom, five days a week at a range of levels. A separate group has been set up to cater for asylum seekers who are not UK residents, following requests from asylum seekers in the Netherlands and other countries. Whereas the ESOL classes would normally take a break over the summer, this year they have continued. The Google classroom has been very popular, with students reporting that this online space has opened up new opportunities for them to study at their own time and pace.



**SEWING**

After going back on Zoom following the autumn lockdown, Mandy worked really hard delivering two sessions a week, as well as keeping the group supplied with fabric and materials. The Zoom sessions really helped the ladies keep in touch. Catching up, and having a chat with each other during the sessions, was so important in lockdown. The group was finally able to return to Booth Hall on 20th May, and whilst very appreciative of the Zoom classes, all agree it's much, much nicer to be in the same space together. A grant from the Coop has kept the group well equipped with both fabrics and materials. The group is currently running "The Great Sanctuary Sewing Bee" where the women choose something they want to make that will challenge themselves to do something new, rather than it being about competition with others.

**FOOTBALL**

The football group went back briefly face-to-face from September, closing during the various lockdowns, then popping back up again when restrictions eased. The football group remains ever popular, with large numbers wanting to play each week. Phil has worked very hard running an appointment system to control numbers and to keep the information required by Track & Trace. Thanks to Carling we've been able to buy new kit for our football group - including boots, footballs, gloves, socks and more. This funding has also allowed us to provide refreshments of fresh fruit during half-time, as well as some toiletries for the players.

**NEW EVIDENCE SEARCH TEAM (NEST)**

NEST helps refused asylum seekers to understand the reasons for their refusal and helps them gather new relevant information. NEST has been operating via Zoom since April 2020 and handled 12 cases since August 2020. This is lower than normal because the Home Office hasn't been processing cases in the usual way, and appeals were not being held for a large part of last year. As a result, the number of refused asylum seekers requiring help on their fresh claims was down.

Sherri is stepping down as group leader, but will continue as a caseworker in the NEST team. A huge thanks to Sherri for so much work over many years.

**MULTI AGENCY FORUM (MAF)**

We have continued to chair the MAF, hosting the bi-monthly meetings online via Zoom. We have also encouraged wider involvement from the community, adding new participants. Enabling the MAF to continue to run during the various lockdowns via Zoom has provided continuity of this vital forum where groups can meet up and exchange news on the asylum and refugee sector.

**AND FINALLY...**

We're really grateful for the support from our volunteers who have helped us keep things going during this difficult year, and also to partners and the local community. We've benefited from goods donations from local schools, churches, supermarkets, other groups and individuals, which have really helped us to keep distributing essential goods to those in need.

We've adapted to the changing situation week by week over the past year, and will continue to do so, whatever the coming months may bring.

**Shali Bullough - LCoS Coordinator**

If you would like to know more about Leicester City of Sanctuary, contact us via:  
 Email: [contactus@leicester.cityofsanctuary.org](mailto:contactus@leicester.cityofsanctuary.org)  
 Website: [www.leicester.cityofsanctuary.org](http://www.leicester.cityofsanctuary.org)  
 Facebook: [www.facebook.com/leicestercityofsanctuary](http://www.facebook.com/leicestercityofsanctuary)



**Leicester  
City of Sanctuary**

**ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2020-2021**



**Committed to creating a culture of welcome for asylum seekers and refugees in our city and county**

# LEICESTER CITY OF SANCTUARY

## CHAIR'S REPORT

**Trustees** for the past year have been: Pete Hobson (chair), Jenny Dnes (vice-chair), Hagara Al-Katheri, Sadiq Ahamed, Cllr Danny Myers, Eric Nkundumubano, Ajay Aggarwal, Margaret Bonney and Golden Ngwenya. The last three step down at this year's AGM, and we're looking for the right people to replace them – though there is no absolute requirement for trustee numbers, above a minimum of three.

**Work pattern** - Our last report was presented in September 2020 when it appeared that the first waves of covid-19 had subsided, but in fact further waves were shortly to emerge. This has again had a significant impact on the sort of activities we have been able to maintain, and I'm so pleased with all that our staff and volunteers have in fact still been able to achieve for and with our users. Indeed, volunteers remain key to much of our work, but understandably the pandemic has made some cautious about resuming activities, especially those who are themselves in more vulnerable groups. We're so grateful that many volunteers have been able to provide invaluable support during the past year, and also that we have excellent staff who can oversee a safe return to more face-to-face working.

**Staffing** – Shabana Momin, our wonderful assistant coordinator, took maternity leave from November, and shortly after her return left us for other, more full-time work in July. We were very sorry to see her go, whilst wholly understanding the reasons. Fortunately, we have been able to recruit not one, but two new part-time assistant staff – Chloe Woods, who started in February, initially as maternity cover but since extended to the end of the financial year, and then Anna Goodman, who began work in mid-June on a 6 month contract. The relative strength of our financial position (in part due to covid-19, ironically), combined with the ever-increasing demand for support, has made this possible, and we keep staffing levels and needs under constant review.

**Future thinking** – we're nearing the end of the period covered by our Strategic Plan 2019-22, and will be reviewing how we've done early in the spring. The uncertainties of the pandemic have impacted just about every organisation in the world and it will also be challenging to see what the future holds. But it does appear that the combination of aggressive government policy on asylum and immigration, combined with the ever-increasing impact of climate change and global political pressures on patterns of migration, mean that we can expect no lessening of the needs we exist to meet.

**Pete Hobson – Chair**

## FINANCIAL REPORT / COORDINATOR'S REPORT

### FINANCIAL REPORT 2020-2021

At the end of the 2020/21 financial year, our funds stood at just under £70,000, an increase of over £30,000 compared with the end of 2019/20. This increase is due to a number of factors. Firstly, it was a strong year for income. This was the first year of a National Lottery grant of £30,000 which we were awarded early in 2020. It was also the final year of a long-term grant from the Red Cross. Donations held up well and we raised over £8,000 from the Big Give Christmas fundraising campaign. Secondly, expenditure was lower than expected due to the restrictions of the pandemic. We continued with limited outdoor activities when possible, but many of our normal fixed costs such as room hire and food were much lower than in previous years.

However, despite the restrictions, the needs of our service users were still our priority and we made many more discretionary payments from our emergency fund than in previous years. We also employed an additional part time assistant co-ordinator specifically to develop our case work activities and to work with new asylum seekers who are being housed temporarily in hotels in Leicester.

Overall, we ended the year in a stronger financial position than we expected. At the time of writing, the situation with the pandemic is still uncertain, but the position is improving and we are able to start to open up more activities. Our expenditure for 2021/22 is therefore likely to return to more normal levels. The Lottery grant continues until 2024, but we need to continue to look for other funding sources over the coming year in order to sustain our levels of activity going forward.

**Jenny Dnes – Trustee with Financial Oversight**



### LOCKDOWN

Along with the rest of the world, we've had a very strange year. Soaring Covid rates in the autumn of 2020 delayed our return to The Bridge, as we felt it was safer to continue running from the garden of the Unitarian Chapel, distributing essential goods.

However, we were able to start a small English conversation group, and both the sewing and football groups were able to return to face-to-face activities from September until the autumn lockdown. This was a period of stop-start. The lockdown in October meant a return to activities on Zoom. But the day after the lockdown ended, we returned to the garden, and had a bumper giveaway before Christmas, including the delivery of presents to 33 children.

During the January to March lockdown, we provided weekly supplies of toiletries and PPE to the foodbank at TREC, so that our service users could pick up essentials there. We delivered 80 food parcels directly to local asylum seekers and refugees, including fresh fruit. We also supplied 230 essential hygiene packs, with facemasks, hand sanitizer and other toiletries, to asylum seekers in local hostels and hotels.

ESOL, sewing and soccercise continued online via Zoom. Maggie worked really hard to support the families, including helping them to apply for the council's Winter Grant Scheme. We kept in regular contact with the group and our emergency fund continued to support people. We developed a new partnership with British Red Cross to increase access to our fund, making it possible for people to pick up small payments, for phone credit and other essentials, from their office in town.

To encourage vaccine take up by asylum seekers and refugees, we also ran a health initiative, offering information about the Covid vaccination via our Whatsapp group. We've continued to send regular information on drop-in vaccination clinics and have seen a great take up of the vaccine amongst our group, which is really encouraging.

We delivered craft packs to 33 children over the February half term and to help lift spirits and welcome the spring, we worked with the British Conservation Volunteers to provide seed packs so that people could grow some flowers and herbs on a windowsill.

### IN THE GARDEN

When lockdown finally lifted on 29th March, we returned to the Chapel garden, relishing the spring sunshine and delighting in seeing each other again after three long dark months of isolation. We continued meeting outside every week until the end of June. We introduced various activities, as well as the distribution of essentials, but were always at the mercy of the weather. Luckily the sun shone during Refugee Week, when we had both a craft session with Linda and Sadiq from Leicester Museum, as well as a growing activity with Sam from the Conservation Volunteers.

A particular success that started in the garden was a new Women's Wellbeing Group inspired by conversations with various women, who felt they had put on a few extra pounds during lockdown. The women themselves have been active in deciding on the direction of the group. Led by Sarah from LCitC, the group has covered healthy eating, looking at food labelling and exercise.

With the complete lifting of all restrictions on 19th July, we've moved back to The Bridge. We're really grateful to the Unitarians for hosting us for a year in the garden, providing a safe space and new experiences for us there.

### BACK TO THE BRIDGE

It's good to be back at the Bridge, benefiting from the synergies that it brings us. We've been running an English conversation group inside in the morning, as well as the distribution of essentials, including food, toiletries, clothing, children's toys and other items, outside. To provide activities for the children over the summer, Maggie's been leading regular visits to Abbey Park with play activities. The families have all been provided with a park pack containing sun cream, hand sanitizer and wipes, and the older children have become quite expert in collecting the play equipment at the end of the session and ticking it off the check list for Maggie.

As we can't host the large numbers of people at the same time as we used to, we are now doing more in depth casework on an appointment basis. In the afternoon we have a social time where people can enjoy a snack, games and a quiz. Things will develop as the Covid situation evolves over the autumn and winter, but for now, it's good to be back indoors with the flexibility that offers.

