

# 2024-25 IMPACT REPORT



Bristol City of Sanctuary



Building a City of Welcome, Safety and Hope

Your friends at City of Sanctuary remain deeply committed to building a more cohesive, compassionate Bristol, a city where individuals, communities, and organisations across all sectors stand shoulder to shoulder with those seeking sanctuary. Our vision is bold and hopeful: an island of solidarity, where welcome and belonging replace fear and division; not an island of strangers, but a shared home for all.

*Yasmin Millican, Bristol City of Sanctuary Director.*

## Highlights from Our Programmes:

### Schools of Sanctuary



- We now have over 25 Schools of Sanctuary in Bristol, with 7 new schools to receive the award at this year's Awards Ceremony!
- Our Schools of Sanctuary network is ever-growing; BBC Point West produced this [feature](#) and two schools have enjoyed MP visits from Darren Jones MP and Damien Egan in their constituencies.
- Our partnerships with BCC, the Refugee Employability Programme, Bristol Refugee Festival and the Bell Foundation are growing stronger. Three Schools of Sanctuary have now successfully welcomed refugee volunteers or staff members.
- Additionally, we've secured funding to launch a new initiative that will train 'Education Champions' with lived experience, who will help sanctuary-seeking families connect with and engage in their school communities.

### Universities of Sanctuary



- The University of Bristol was granted Sanctuary Status in 2019 and has been awarding 10-15 scholarships annually, covering both full tuition fees and living costs. Since 2016, this has amounted to nearly 100 scholarships, valued at over £7.8 million.
- UWE Bristol's Sanctuary Award will be announced this year! UWE has been offering sanctuary scholars a full tuition fee waiver along with a maintenance grant since 2020.
- In January 2025, UWE staff and students organised the annual Asylum Seeker and Refugee Wellbeing Conference and have spearheaded the design of the Memorial Garden.
- BCoS facilitated student workshops at both universities, focusing on how to leverage the student community's potential to support refugees.

## Bristol City Council as a Local Authority of Sanctuary



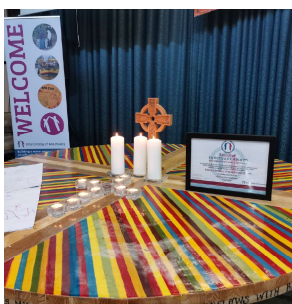
- This year, Bristol City Council (BCC) was re-accredited as a Local Authority of Sanctuary and marked the achievement by hosting a sector-wide celebration event in January 2025.
- As of March 2025, the service supports 315 individuals with NRPF, 486 resettled refugees, and 630 Ukrainians. BCC has agreed to resettle 30 families every year which is well above the national average.
- BCoS contributed to the development of the new strategic plan for sanctuary services and remains actively involved in the City of Sanctuary Strategic Partnership Forum.

## Arts Organisations of Sanctuary



- This year, we expanded our work to include new partnerships with local businesses and arts organisations in Bristol, hosting participatory workshops for cultural and industry leaders at the Bristol Beacon in October 2024 and February 2025.
- We have established a Sanctuary in Arts Steering Group made up of 13 of Bristol's much-loved cultural institutions, who lead on widening participation for sanctuary seekers in the arts.
- Excitingly, Arnolfini is now the first Arts Organisation of Sanctuary in Bristol and Dovetail the first Orchestra of Sanctuary in the UK!
- 'We've really appreciated all the support you have given us and I think the Arts Sanctuary steering group is the first time that I have been able to connect with some of the arts venues across the city' – Keiko, Arnolfini.

## Engaging Faith Organisations



- There are now 5 Churches of Sanctuary across Bristol offering practical and spiritual support to refugees and asylum seekers, including bilingual prayer groups and food bank services.
- We are developing our partnership with Bristol Muslim Strategic Leadership Group and Good Faith Partnership to grow the network.
- ECFC hosted a special service to announce their Sanctuary Award, with bilingual prayers and songs from long-term members of the congregation as well as sanctuary seekers.

## Bristol Sanctuary Transport Fund



- We have a long standing partnership with First Bus to provide free bus tickets for people seeking sanctuary in our city, who would otherwise not be able to access vital services and appointments.
- Through this partnership, First Bus agreed to issue 500 free tickets for the Refugee Week celebration in Queen Square.
- During this period, we provided 8876 free tickets for destitute asylum seekers.
- We organised three community fundraising events at the Watershed and St George's which collectively raised over £1500 for the Transport Fund.

## Memorial Garden



- Through our engagement with the Avon & Wiltshire Mental Health Trust, Bristol Quakers and BCC, we successfully protected the Quaker Burial Ground in Redcliffe from being repurposed as a builder's ground and developed a plan to turn this area into a new safe space for people seeking sanctuary.
- Together with sanctuary seekers, we have co-produced events in the garden to increase engagement in the space.

## Health



- There are now over 20 Safe Surgeries across Bristol.
- We continue to collaborate with Doctors of the World, Public Health consultants at Bristol City Council, the Haven, Montpelier Health Centre, and Bristol University Medical School to engage clinical leads.
- City of Sanctuary UK relaunched the Maternity Stream of Sanctuary and Project Mama became the first Maternity Service of Sanctuary in Bristol.
- In partnership with Project Mama, we are supporting both NHS Trusts in their efforts to achieve the Sanctuary Award.

## Influencing and advocacy



- We have partnered with Citizens UK to deliver campaign training for 15 individuals with lived experience with lived experience to help hone their messages, understand the political system and prepare to speak with decision makers.
- We are leading partnership campaign events for people with lived experience to tell local decision makers about challenges they face, namely barriers to public transport.
- "I am so happy today that my voice has been heard". "I am happy to be here, to be in a room with ministers / organisations, I feel blessed to be here!"

Bristol City of Sanctuary  
2024 - 2025  
R&P Accounts



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Bristol City of Sanctuary	1177122
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Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date 1 Apr 24	To	Period end date 31 Mar 25
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Pledge Fees	285			285	
Membership Fees	641			641	475
Grants	7,000	85,632		92,632	15,000
Donations	2,958			2,958	12,206
Transport Fund	15	3,689		3,704	7,607
Other Restricted					
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>10,899</b>	<b>89,321</b>		<b>100,220</b>	<b>35,288</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
Loan Repayment	1,450			1,450	1,600
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>1,450</b>			<b>1,450</b>	<b>1,600</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>12,349</b>	<b>89,321</b>		<b>101,670</b>	<b>36,888</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Transport Fund		6,916		6,916	5,163
Events		2,346		2,346	800
Workers	13,142	12,695		25,836	10,000
Comms		1,452		1,452	
Administration		1,335		1,335	3,172
Training		661		661	
Bank Charges	71			71	
Other expenses	260	2,310		2,570	
Office costs	1,718			1,718	
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>15,191</b>	<b>27,714</b>		<b>42,906</b>	<b>19,135</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
<b>Sub total</b>					
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>15,191</b>	<b>27,714</b>		<b>42,906</b>	<b>19,135</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>- 2,843</b>	<b>61,607</b>		<b>58,765</b>	<b>17,753</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>					
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>19,771</b>	<b>21,390</b>		<b>41,161</b>	<b>23,408</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>16,928</b>	<b>82,997</b>		<b>99,926</b>	<b>41,161</b>

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Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period


Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Unity Trust	16,928	82,997	
	Total cash funds	16,928	82,997	
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Loans	6,200		

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets				

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use				

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	Independent Examination	Unrestricted funds	899	
	HMRC & Pensions	Unrestricted funds	681	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	<div>DocuSigned by:  0D58DBB0F8964FA...</div>	Nathalie Jaifar	13/10/2025

There was no remuneration or expenses paid to any trustee or related party





**CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

## Independent examiner's report on the accounts

### Section A

### Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/  
members of**

Bristol City of Sanctuary

**On accounts for the year  
ended**

31<sup>st</sup> March 2025

**Charity no  
(if any)**

1177122

**Set out on pages**

1 & 2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

**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:**

Signed by:

*Geoff Archer*

**Date:**

13/10/2025

**Name:**

Geoff Archer

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

AAT, ATT

**Address:**

Bristol Community Accountants CIC

Daventry Road

Bristol, BS4 1DQ

Section B

Disclosure

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.