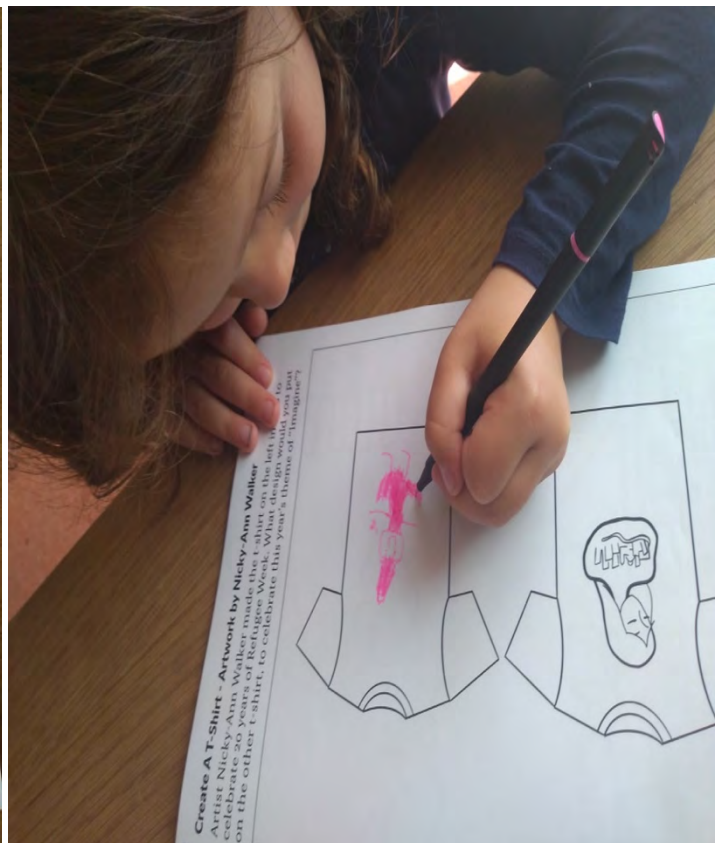
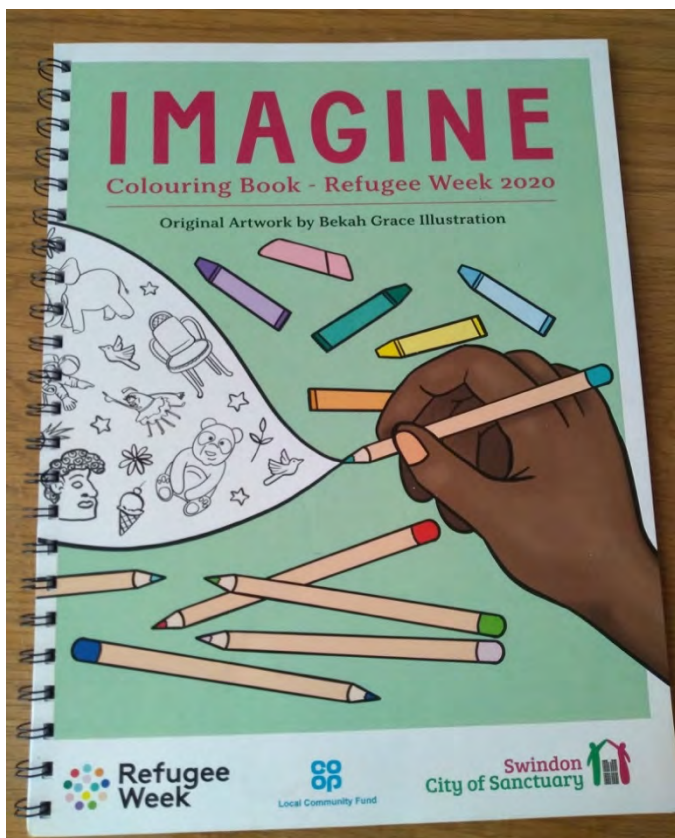


# Swindon City of Sanctuary



Registered Charity No. 1177624

## Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts 2020-2021



**Swindon City of Sanctuary  
brings people and  
organisations together, raising  
awareness and celebrating our  
diverse town through the  
national scheme of  
Sanctuary Awards**



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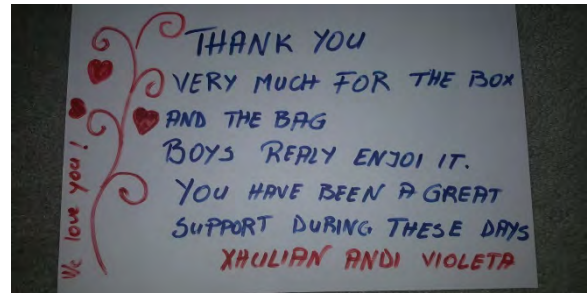
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# Introduction and Summary

**Our focuses for 2020-2021:**

- The impact of our work
- Building stronger foundations for the future



It is fair to say that 2020-21 was a challenging year for Swindon City of Sanctuary, as it was for many charitable organisations. When we commenced this financial year (1<sup>st</sup> May 2020), the UK was in the first full Lockdown due to Covid, and none of us could foresee exactly what change this global crisis would have on our organisation. We are pleased to say that we have emerged from this crisis stronger than we were when it began, but this year's Annual Report is heavily focussed on the significant changes that we were forced to bring about as a result of Covid-19.

## **Progress:**

- Schools of Sanctuary, our flagship education programme, remained afloat and engaged three new schools taking our network total to twenty throughout Swindon.
- In all our projects and initiatives, we have maintained contacts and connections and collaborations with individuals and organisations.
- Significant additional funding was received from Wiltshire Community Foundation, Adapt and Respond, the People's Neighbourhood Trust and the Cooperative Community Fund
- We launched a new project during Lockdown, Family Activity Boxes (FABs), designed to offer support with resources for families seeking sanctuary who were new to Swindon. Boxes of brand-new books, games, crafts and activities ensured that, during Lockdown, children and their families were able to thrive in challenging circumstances presented by school closures.
- The People's Neighbourhood Trust funding allowed us to recruit a new member of staff, Stella Mortazavi, to coordinate and develop the FAB Extensions Project.
- Work had already begun on our Case for Support which was completed by May 2020 and which influenced our consultation process.
- As planned, we conducted a consultation in December 2020. We talked with a representative sample of people seeking sanctuary in Swindon to enable us to shape our operational strategy over the next 5 years.

## **Changes:**

- We welcomed two new trustees to the Board, Moses Lubanda and our new Treasurer, Serena Juul.
- Our hosting scheme, Room for All, came to a natural end due to the pandemic.

- We're Open, our successful weekly social inclusion project, was paused due to government restrictions.
- Sadly, we have some leavers and we thank both for their contributions:
  - Sarah Brunskill, our Volunteer Coordinator moved on to a new post.
  - Ian Robertson, who had served as a trustee on our board.

Our financial year runs May to April but this report extends from the beginning of the first Covid-19 Lockdown (March 2020) to the end of April 2021.

Swindon City of Sanctuary has continued to have a positive impact. During this year of challenges, we have drawn on our strengths as an organisation to adapt and use our creative thinking. We have prioritised where our focus and expertise should be directed to enable us to meet the needs of people seeking sanctuary during the pandemic; most notably by supporting families seeking sanctuary new to Swindon with our Family Activity Boxes (FAB!) Project.

The continued engagement of people and organisations in our community reinforces our belief that Swindon is fundamentally a welcoming and inclusive town.

We're excited for the future and, as always, we offer our deepest thanks to everyone who has supported our mission in the last twelve months.

**Ben Jackson**  
Chair of Trustees



**Nicola Wood**  
Executive Officer



**December 2021**

#### **A note about terminology:**

UK law defines an asylum seeker as a person who has an asylum claim pending with the Home Office. A refugee has been given their 'Leave to Remain' meaning they have been granted the right to stay and live in the UK. We prefer to use the term, 'people seeking sanctuary' when referring to people we work with, instead of 'asylum seekers' and 'refugees'.

# Our Year in Numbers

**200+** activities, puzzles and games in **FABs!**

**20** **FABs!** created for families

**3** **We're Virtually Open** trial sessions

**20** young people from families seeking asylum received **FABs!**

**40+** **IMAGINE Colouring Competition** entries

**3** new schools joined our **Schools of Sanctuary Network**

**3** key **Campaigns** for change

**2** innovative new Schools of Sanctuary projects

**12** people with lived experience of seeking asylum involved in Consultation

**50+** school staff involved in training, curriculum developments, special projects

**1** person successfully advocated for

**2,500** young people in local schools involved in projects and curriculum developments

**5** online **Well-being** yoga sessions

**2** guests accommodated in **Room for All** hosting scheme during Lockdown#1

**9** bus passes donated by **Swindon's Bus Company**

**5** tablets uploaded with word games and stories for **FABs** for schools



# Thanks

**We thank all the organisations and individuals who have contributed to our work and the many others who pledge to do so in the future.**

We thank all our volunteers and supporters for their pledges, individual donations, grant funds and time. These essential groups of generous people and organisations have enabled us to continue developing our work to meet our objectives.

<b>Abdulaziz Gulay</b>	<b>Staff in Schools of Sanctuary Network</b>
<b>Andrew Wood</b>	<b>Swindon Advertiser</b>
<b>Angela Atkinson</b>	<b>Swindon Borough Council</b>
<b>Artway, Melksham</b>	<b>Swindon's Bus Company</b>
<b>Arts and Humanities Research Council</b>	<b>Swindon and Gloucestershire Mind</b>
<b>Asylum Matters</b>	<b>Swindon Libraries</b>
<b>BBC Wiltshire</b>	<b>Swindon Link</b>
<b>Bekah Grace (Illustrator)</b>	<b>Swindon Quakers</b>
<b>BookTrust</b>	<b>Swindon Stories - National Literacy Trust</b>
<b>Carole Bent</b>	<b>The Baker's Café</b>
<b>Child's Play International</b>	<b>The Co-operative Group</b>
<b>City of Sanctuary UK</b>	<b>The Harbour Project</b>
<b>Coffee#1, Swindon</b>	<b>The Joffe Charitable Trust</b>
<b>Create Studios</b>	<b>The Medaille Trust</b>
<b>Curry's PC World</b>	<b>The Olive Tree Café</b>
<b>Disability Experts</b>	<b>Viewpoint Community Media</b>
<b>Dorset &amp; Wiltshire Fire &amp; Rescue Service</b>	<b>Voluntary Action Swindon</b>
<b>Gateway Furniture Store</b>	<b>Volunteer Centre Swindon</b>
<b>Good Gym</b>	<b>Volunteers - We're Open</b>
<b>Great Western Hospital</b>	<b>Volunteers - Hosting Scheme</b>
<b>High Sheriff of Wiltshire</b>	<b>Volunteer judges - Colouring Competition</b>
<b>Hungry Little Minds (Literacy Initiative)</b>	<b>Volunteer respondents for Consultation</b>
<b>INTEL</b>	<b>Wiltshire Community Foundation</b>
<b>Justin Tomlinson, MP for Swindon North</b>	
<b>Los Gatos</b>	
<b>Mantra Lingua Publishers</b>	
<b>Mike Horan Printers</b>	
<b>Neil Griffiths</b>	
<b>No Accommodation network</b>	
<b>Office of Police and Crime Commissioner</b>	
<b>Postcode Neighbourhood Trust</b>	
<b>Refugee Action</b>	
<b>Robert Buckland, MP for Swindon South</b>	
<b>Sam Frith</b>	
<b>Siobhan Nell</b>	
<b>South Swindon Parish Council</b>	

## **Our Charitable Objects**

**To advance the education of the public in general, especially in Swindon, about the issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum.**

**To provide or assist in the provision of facilities and activities for recreation or other leisure time occupations in the interests of social welfare with the object of improving the conditions of life of those persons who have need of such facilities.**

**The promotion of equality and diversity for the public benefit by promoting activities to foster understanding and engagement between people from diverse backgrounds.**

**The prevention and relief of poverty amongst those granted refugee status and those seeking asylum in Swindon.**



# Culture and Values

## (updated version for 2020)



### **Our Values are woven into all of our Projects and Initiatives**

#### **TRUST**

Trust is at the core of our organisation. We understand that those we support and collaborate with deserve and expect our trustworthiness in the ways we work and the decisions we take. We are open and approachable and take safeguarding seriously in personal and confidential matters.

#### **INCLUSIVE**

Being inclusive is essential in our work and for us this means we begin with consideration and care in each individual encounter. We support each sanctuary seeker in a consultative, empowering and respectful way, showing encouragement and patience. We actively and equally value the contribution that all of our staff, volunteers, trustees and those who benefit make, and involve them meaningfully in decisions about our work.

#### **OBJECTIVE**

Our kindness is not lessened by our objectivity and clarity, which are important in the way that we conduct our work internally and externally. We are non-judgmental, fair and focused. We ensure to work ethically in all we do and who we work with, as well as considering our environmental impact as a charity.

#### **INFORMED**

Across our organisation we stay informed and knowledgeable of the circumstances and laws affecting sanctuary seekers, and the issues around hate crime locally. We use our knowledge and awareness proactively to challenge preconceptions, to share knowledge across Swindon and to help create better understanding between us all.

#### **INSPIRATIONAL**

We use our creativity and innovation to make our expressions, our connections and our outreach work as educational and inspirational as they can be. We hope to inspire others to actively help make Swindon a welcoming place for all who live here. We believe in generous leadership and that the best work relies on different experiences and perspectives. We seek out the best ideas, wherever they come from.

#### **POSITIVE and COMMITTED**

We are strongly committed to work, educate and campaign in a responsible, coordinated and strategic way. We aim to focus on the positive, overcoming challenges and hostility by finding common ground. We respond with activities that bring our community together and enable us to listen and learn from each other, in order to break down stereotypes and resentment driven by fear.

Projects affected by the Pandemic:  
Room for All

**Our hosting scheme  
contributed towards  
reducing  
homelessness in  
Swindon through  
arranging temporary  
accommodation for  
people seeking  
sanctuary.**

# Projects affected by the Pandemic:

## Room for All

Providing a safe place to live for people seeking sanctuary who would otherwise face homelessness.

### Room for All in numbers:

- 2 guests accommodated during first lockdown and
- 1 guest accommodated until May 2021
- 8 host households as volunteers
- 3 volunteer support workers
- 1 guest successfully advocated for

Room For All, Hosting Project meets one of our Charitable Objects:

“The prevention and relief of poverty amongst those granted refugee status and those seeking asylum in Swindon.”



## OUR PROJECT

Having already coped with a traumatic journey to get to the UK, on arrival, people seeking sanctuary very often face a hostile environment. Ahead of them is a long and unpredictable asylum process. Even having gained their 'Leave to Remain' (ie. refugee status), the struggle for acceptance is still not over.

A whole series of new difficulties face people seeking sanctuary once they have been given their 'Leave to Remain'. However, this process has been made even more challenging with the arrival of Covid-19.

The whole experience of the asylum process has become more precarious, with even longer delays than had previously been the case, before screening interviews and substantive interviews could take place – in fact, all substantive interviews were paused until July 2020; when they resumed, they could only be done by video call. This delay meant fewer people were able to complete their asylum claims.

On 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020, the Home Office announced that those people who had been informed of their positive decisions, (i.e. people being granted 'Leave to Remain') would NOT be sent 'Notice to Quit' or 'Move On' letters to leave their asylum accommodation within the pre-pandemic timeframe of twenty-eight days. Instead, the Home Office announced that people would NOT be asked to leave their asylum accommodation until at least the end of June 2020, possibly later. However, by October 2020, 'Notice to Quit' or 'Move On' letters were once again re-introduced, but the challenges of where people could be housed remained a serious concern.

[Video update on the asylum and immigration system – Right to Remain](#)

[Home Office preparedness for COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\): institutional accommodation - Home Affairs Committee - House of Commons \(parliament.uk\)](#)

For our Hosting Scheme, the situation became increasingly complex. From the end of March 2020, our priorities focussed on keeping hosts and guests safe; thus, we hosted only two guests over the three Lockdowns. During this time, we also received fewer referrals because Local Authorities were now taking on the responsibilities of housing, in hotels, people who were at risk of street homelessness and destitution. Formerly, this had been the point that our Hosting Scheme would have been activated.

*"Staying with my host was very, very lovely – feels sometimes like they are my family"*

Guest of Hosting Scheme – May 2021





## OUR SUCCESSES

During 2020-2021, our third and most challenging operational year, we continued to use our funding from the **Wiltshire Community Foundation (WCF)** and the grant from the **No Accommodation Network (NACCOM)**. In September 2020, we were successful in being awarded a **Respond and Adapt Grant** to help with our core running costs for our **Room for All** initiative.

**NACCOM**, which we joined in February 2017, nationally supports schemes like **Room for All** that work to prevent destitution amongst people seeking sanctuary. Our membership of **NACCOM** became especially vital this year with their weekly and monthly **Zoom** calls which featured support and guidance. With changing government advice, it was vital for us to be kept informed in this way.

- 1 guest successfully moved on during Lockdown#1 after receiving their Leave to Remain and finding employment.
- 1 guest was hosted with us until May 2021 during a time of uncertainty and delays in a fresh legal claim during the pandemic. Our hosts were able to provide stability, friendship and a safe place to be.
- We successfully advocated on behalf of a guest who was going to be moved to Canvey Island, miles away from all their support in Swindon. With help from our local MP, they were relocated to London and then Gloucester.

## OUR PLANS AND CHALLENGES

- Unfortunately, many of our hosts were unable to host during this year because of the need to isolate and avoid the risks posed by Covid-19.
- It was difficult for our support workers and Hosting Coordinator to meet with our guests and hosts during this year, but they still kept in regular (remote) contact.

- Coupled with the changed circumstances for people being granted Leave to Remain, recruiting new volunteers became a further challenge.
- Sadly, Covid-19 had a dramatic impact on our **Room for All** project. Early in 2020, we could not have anticipated the enormous extent of this impact. Despite the restrictions and changes brought about during Lockdown#1, we were able to continue to support our beneficiaries who were already in the Hosting Scheme. However, to protect hosts, support workers and guests, plans were put in place ready to suspend the project, if necessary. At the same time, fewer referrals were being made and concern continued for the safety of guests and hosts. Therefore, once our last guest had moved on in June 2020, our Board of Trustees made the decision to close our Hosting Scheme.

*"As our Room For All Hosting Scheme came to a close we had accommodated **41 guests** for a total of **2,565 nights**.*

*This is the equivalent of keeping one person off the street for **7 years!***

*We are incredibly proud of our Room For All Hosting Project, from the kindness shown by Swindon residents to house a stranger in-need, for the relationships that have grown, the sharing of culture, food and languages.*

*As one chapter closes another opens, we are now able to focus our work on the nationally recognised Sanctuary Awards, building on our work with the local community, our campaigning efforts for a more compassionate asylum system and will continue to contribute to Swindon being a welcoming town for all.*

*Hosting Coordinator - 2021*

# Projects affected by the Pandemic: Transport Fund



Being able to travel means that people seeking sanctuary can ... begin to take part in the life of their new community.

**Transport Fund** in numbers:

- 9 free monthly bus passes

## OUR PROJECT



**Swindon's Bus Company** again generously pledged its support for another year by providing reduced bus passes for us to match-fund according to individual need. For 2020-2021, the fund was again supported by individual monthly donations from the public via **Local Giving**.

This partnership project with a significant local organisation, meets one of our **Charitable Objects**:

"The prevention and relief of poverty amongst those granted refugee status and those seeking asylum in Swindon."

The project started in 2018 to provide monthly bus passes to some people seeking sanctuary who live on the outskirts of the town. Without means of transport, accessing English classes, asylum advice, health care, social activities and volunteering opportunities which enable participation in community life, can be an additional and unnecessary challenge.

A monthly TravelPass from **Swindon's Bus Company** costs £55 (correct at time of writing), more than one third of the income of someone seeking asylum, therefore, the idea of travel into the town centre becomes untenable without support. To have a bus pass means greater opportunity for participating in community life.

## OUR SUCCESSES

Despite the challenges of all three Lockdowns and subsequent travel restrictions, we were able to provide free travel to a person seeking sanctuary who was able to volunteer at the Great Western Hospital five days a week throughout the pandemic. It also helped them to attend their IT classes. This is an example of how a single opportunity has a remarkable 'ripple effect' in terms of its benefits: positive impact on mental health; social inclusion reducing social isolation; being of value to, and valued by, the community.

*"I had training provided by the Hospital and started volunteering there in 2018, in the most busy ward, caring for the elderly who have chronic disease. I gave them lunch, tea and coffee, and helped with their personal care. I chatted with them, I would tell them stories to make them happy. I'd also tell them jokes too and would help to feed them. They really appreciated that and I feel very happy and blessed I could help them."*

The words of a lived experience Volunteer

## OUR PLANS AND CHALLENGES

Due to the challenges of Lockdowns and Covid-19 the need for bus passes was considerably reduced compared to previous years. Guests in our Hosting Scheme were not travelling due to restrictions. With our weekly social inclusion project, **We're Open**, postponed, there was no longer a need for Day Rider tickets during this time.

Without the Hosting Scheme, we will focus our attention on providing Day Rider tickets to ensure people can travel to, and attend, our evening social inclusion project, **We're Open**, which will be needed more than ever when restrictions are lifted allowing us to re-open.

Our plans for 2021-2022:

- To maintain funding and support from **Swindon's Bus Company** and **Local Giving** for next year.
- To increase funding for more Day Rider tickets when applying for grants to fund the continuation of **We're Open**.
- To sustain our monitoring of tickets issued and to be aware of any other immediate needs regarding travel once restrictions ease.



## Projects affected by the Pandemic: Well-being Project

**Although the Government's measures led to more people being housed, concern for their personal safety, lack of privacy and general wellbeing increased. The closure of drop-in centres means isolated people become even more lonely, while others are at risk because they no longer have access to the services they rely on ...**

# Projects affected by the Pandemic: Well-being Project

Improving the mental health of people seeking sanctuary through exercise and access to counselling.

**Well-being Project** in numbers:

- 5 beneficiaries
- 5 people accessed regular online yoga sessions

This initiative meets one of our **Charitable Objects**:

“To provide, or assist in the provision of, facilities and activities for recreation or other leisure time occupations in the interests of social welfare, with the object of improving the conditions of life of those persons who have need of such facilities.”

## OUR PROJECT

At the beginning of 2020, we started our **Well-being Project** for people seeking sanctuary in Swindon. We wanted to focus on how those seeking sanctuary could best cope with their lives since arriving in the UK. Cultural changes can have a huge psychological impact on individuals as well as dealing with possible trauma experienced in their home-country. Language barriers, dealing with new forms of bureaucracy, new customs, even hostility, in their country of sanctuary, can all take their toll on physical and mental well-being.

*“61% of asylum seekers experience serious mental distress...refugees are five times more likely to have mental health needs than the UK population”*

Refugee Council 2021

<https://refugeecouncil.org.uk/our-work/mental-health-support-for-refugees-and-asylum-seekers/>

We were conscious that any services we planned to provide would be undertaken with the strictest confidentiality and in accordance with our Safeguarding Policy. Reminders of difficult periods in the life of a person seeking sanctuary that may have happened in the past, or that may be occurring in the present, could cause

further stress and anxiety, so they would therefore need skilled and qualified volunteer support.

From January 2020, **Yoga and 1:1 Counselling** sessions were held fortnightly, every Thursday, in the function room at **The Baker's Café**, a community café in the town centre. This venue was not only easily accessible for people to attend, it was also a welcoming and friendly place for meeting. Every fortnight, there were two yoga sessions: one class for men; one class for women.

Sadly, as with all of our projects and initiatives, there was no escape from the impact of Covid-19; this led to suspension of the **Well-being Project** from March 2020.

## OUR SUCCESSES

- Despite the **Well-being Project** having to pause, our skilled yoga teacher (**British Wheel of Yoga**) and accredited counsellor (**HPD, DipCHyp, MCNHC, NLP Master Practitioner**) with experience of working with military personnel who suffer from PTSD, continued to be an active part of our Volunteer Team at **Swindon City of Sanctuary**. Providing online videos during Lockdown, of gentle, guided movement and breath-work exercises, our yoga teacher enabled people who had attended classes, to stay connected with important well-being techniques.



*Volunteer Yoga Teacher and therapist*

- We were also able to provide 1:1 support, through weekly virtual check-ins for those suffering with mental health issues during the Lockdowns.

## OUR PLANS AND CHALLENGES

- With the ongoing restrictions due to Covid-19 and the suspension of the classes, maintaining contact with yoga class members and those who attended the 1:1 counselling sessions presented a huge challenge. We would have liked more people to have been able to access the online yoga sessions, but reaching others was difficult during this year.
- The additional uncertainties, facing us all in the wake of the pandemic, meant the future for our **Well-being Project** was still precarious. Also, with plans to start them up again we had to ensure that the project was sustainable and manageable within our current capacity.
- Digital Poverty was highlighted during this time as many could not access the online classes due to the Home Office accommodation having no Wi-Fi provision. Added to this, the cost of mobile phone data was prohibitive to people receiving Asylum Support.
- For 2021-2022, within a post-Covid-19 context, we plan to continue with, the yoga classes by linking with other organisations like Swindon and Gloucestershire Mind and Booth House, Salvation Army so that the classes are more inclusive and of benefit to the whole community.
- We would like to recruit another volunteer yoga teacher if there is high demand for the classes, so that we can offer classes on a weekly basis.
- With need for social distancing, we aim to source a bigger space in which to hold the classes, and a separate smaller space for counselling.



**Projects affected by the Pandemic:**  
**We're Open**

**Since the start of **We're Open** in 2017, we have seen how different communities and perspectives have come together in the spirit of friendship.**



# Projects affected by the Pandemic:

## We're Open

Having a place where worries about issues relating to asylum claims can be left behind and where people can meet in a friendly and inclusive environment, is crucial.

**We're Open** in numbers:

- 3 We're Virtually Open 'trial' sessions
- 5 people who are seeking sanctuary in attendance
- 3 lead volunteers

This inspirational initiative meets two of our **Charitable Objects**:

- To provide or assist in the provision of facilities and activities for recreation or other leisure time occupations in the interest of social welfare with the object of improving the conditions of life of those persons who have need of such facilities.
- The promotion of equality and diversity for the public benefit by promoting activities to foster understanding and engagement between people from diverse backgrounds

## OUR PROJECT

This year is the fourth year of **We're Open**. Our unique weekly café evenings, funded by donations and a grant from **Wiltshire Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)**, was temporarily put 'on hold' in March 2020 when the Government announced a nationwide Lockdown.

The focus of **We're Open** is to bring our community together through our shared love of good coffee (or tea), conversation, acoustic live music and maybe a little competitive board game playing. Since the start of the project in 2017 we have seen how different communities and perspectives have come together in a spirit of friendship. The involvement of local volunteers being on hand to ensure people feel welcome, has helped to ensure that those who might be isolated within our community are less daunted about coming. In turn, the experience has helped to promote integration and social inclusion.

Its positive impact cannot be over-stated.

**We're Open**, valued by so many in our local community, from individuals to organisations working with the many new arrivals in Swindon, is a place where people seeking sanctuary can temporarily leave behind the worries about issues relating to their asylum claim and meet other people in a friendly and inclusive environment; a perfect setting for developing understanding of other cultures and nurturing the common things shared by humanity. Where people were born, what languages they speak or faiths they follow can often be things that divide people; at **We're Open**, they are a strong uniting force.

**We're Open**, was run solely by volunteers pre-pandemic, and will continue to run in the same way post-pandemic. This is testament to its success and the continued commitment of all volunteers.

## OUR SUCCESSES

- Before we closed our doors and the pandemic hit, we were able to trial a potential new venue at **Gateway Furniture Store** which offered us a first floor cafe space with hot drinks, cakes and other refreshments available to all in attendance. During this trial we realised that accessibility would be compromised. We are, however, so grateful to the staff at Gateway for the generosity and kindness shown to us and the project.
- With doors closed on **We're Open**, our wonderful lead volunteers who were worried about the social isolation faced by many who attended the evenings, decided to trial holding **We're Open** as a virtual event.



- We held 3 '**We're Virtually Open**' sessions with volunteers, staff and trustees making contact with as many people as possible to get the word out so that people could join us online for quizzes, Pictionary (using the Zoom online whiteboard) and general conversation.

## OUR PLANS AND CHALLENGES

- **'We're Virtually Open'** attracted our volunteers and only a few people seeking sanctuary over the three trial sessions. This was due to two main factors:
  - **Contact details** – due to the relaxed and open nature of **We're Open** to the whole community we did not record people's contact details when attending. This meant we were only able to reach people through our social media platforms, asking other charities to spread the word for us with their clients/visitors, and, by getting in touch with people who had shared their phone numbers with us.
  - **Digital Poverty** – Many people could not join us due to a lack of equipment, data and/or Wi-Fi access. Although digital poverty already existed before the pandemic, the Lockdowns really highlighted and broadened the gap for those who struggled to connect with others online.
- Due to Government restrictions, some people who did attend **'We're Virtually Open'** experienced even more social isolation. One attendee mentioned how wonderful it was to, *"see and speak with other people."* He felt very isolated as he lived in one room, alone. By the third week fewer people were joining. We decided, along with our volunteers, that perhaps our efforts would be best put to use planning for a new venue and format for when we could be back in person.
- We hope to re-open our doors if restrictions ease. We plan to re-start **We're Open** at a new venue, **The Baker's Café**, which is centrally located in Swindon.
- Our Lead Volunteers will prepare a risk assessment in order to open up safely; this will be presented to the Board of Trustees at a future meeting.
- This project has never been more important to bring people together in Swindon. With so much separation caused by Covid-19, people seeking sanctuary have been even more isolated.
- We plan a further review of this much-needed project with a view to considering extending **We're Open** to more than one evening a week.



# IMAGINE

Colouring Book Refugee Week 2025

## **IMAGINE Colouring Book**

**is for young people to  
celebrate being part of a  
community made up of  
people with different  
pasts and to help them to  
'imagine' our shared  
future.**

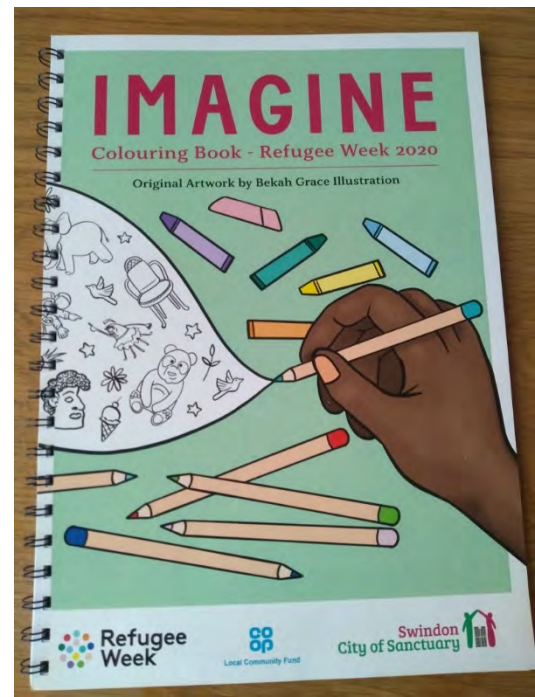
Refugee  
Week

swim  
swim

# Projects which continued during the Pandemic: Refugee Week – The IMAGINE Colouring Book

## Refugee Week in numbers

- 1 children's illustrator
- 2 weeks planning
- 20 young people from families seeking asylum
- 1,000 young people in local schools
- 2 new volunteers
- 3 competition judges
- 40+ competition entries



The **IMAGINE Colouring Book** meets one of our **Charitable Objects**:

- To provide or assist in the provision of facilities and activities for recreation or other leisure time occupations in the interests of social welfare with the object of improving the conditions of life of those persons who have need of such facilities.

## OUR PROJECT

With Covid-19 restricting the physical reach of our plans for **Refugee Week 2020**, we took our celebrations for the week online. [Imagine Colouring Book - Refugee Week 2020 | Swindon City of Sanctuary](#)

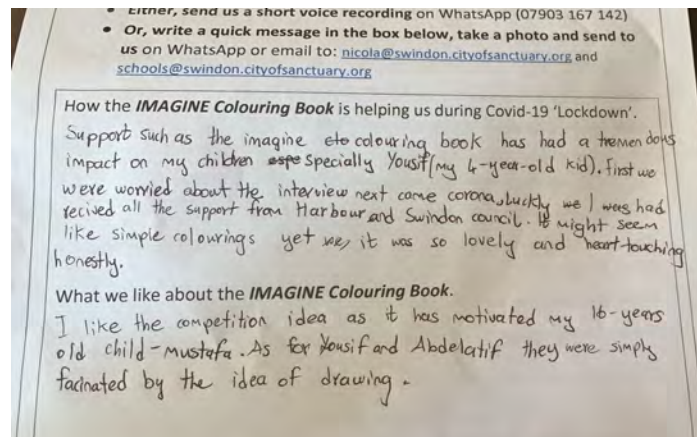
In May 2020, a chance meeting at a monthly Zoom gathering of **Harbour Project** volunteers led to a unique collaboration between **Swindon City of Sanctuary** and Swindon-based artist and children's illustrator, **Bekah Grace**. After an intense two weeks of inspiration, vision and consultation, Bekah created a truly amazing colouring book for all pre-school and school-age young people in Swindon, built around the **Refugee Week 2020** theme of **IMAGINE**. The **IMAGINE Colouring Book** was a further development of the Schools of Sanctuary FAB! project.

The **IMAGINE Colouring Book** was created for young people everywhere who want to celebrate being a part of a community of people with different pasts. It is for young people everywhere who want to imagine and create a shared future of understanding, respect and fairness. It is more than just a colouring book – it is a spark for imagination!

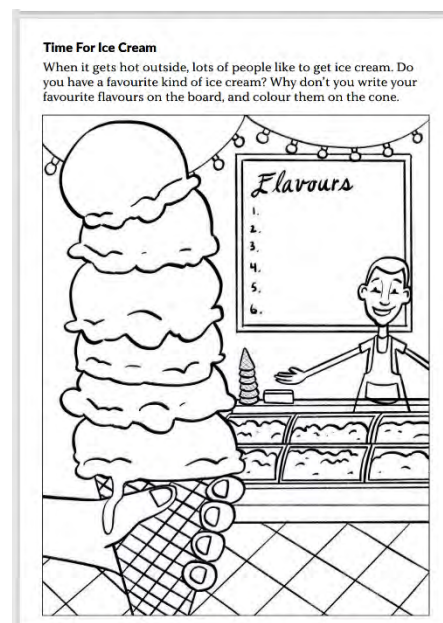
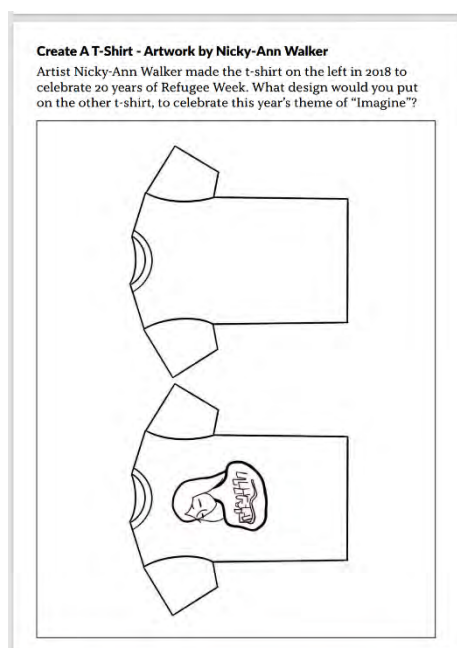
Each of the twenty children and young people in the families who had received FAB! received specially printed editions of the **IMAGINE Colouring Book**, signed by its creator. These young people, along with others living in, or attending school in Swindon, had the chance to enter a special Colouring Competition.

## OUR SUCCESSES

- Through volunteering her time, talent and inspiration, Bekah Grace had created something unique for young people in families seeking asylum and for young people in our Schools of Sanctuary Network.



- Supported by the incredible skills of another talented new Swindon City of Sanctuary volunteer, Sam Frith, the **IMAGINE Colouring Book**, which is full of illustrations to colour, and which invite young people to add in their own imaginative ideas, was digitalised and made available for downloading and sharing across schools and between family and friends. [Imagine Colouring Book - Refugee Week 2020 | Swindon City of Sanctuary](#)





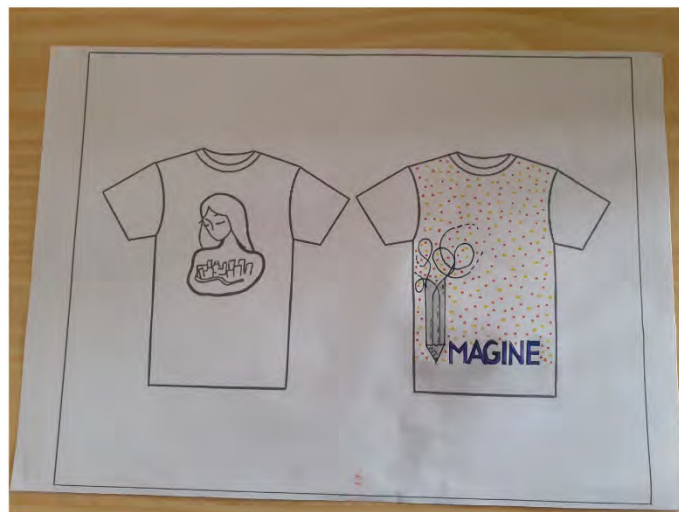
- Primary and Secondary school teachers set activities from the **IMAGINE Colouring Book** as home-schooling tasks and encouraged young people to enter the competition.  
[Imagine Colouring Competition | About \(samifrith.wixsite.com\)](https://samifrith.wixsite.com/ImagineColouringCompetition)
- More than 40 young people submitted entries in the competition, coloured-in digitally or by hand; with prizes and certificates presented at their schools to some talented winners. One teacher said, *"The students loved the prizes and were delighted to win!"*



- The **IMAGINE Colouring Book** presented an inspirational opportunity for young people to think about the world in which they were growing up and gave them a chance to express themselves with imagination and creativity.
- Being supported by external funding **Coop Local Community Fund** and being able to engage a professional printer **Mike Horan Printing Limited**, meant more people were reached with our work – certainly a successful path to follow for future projects.

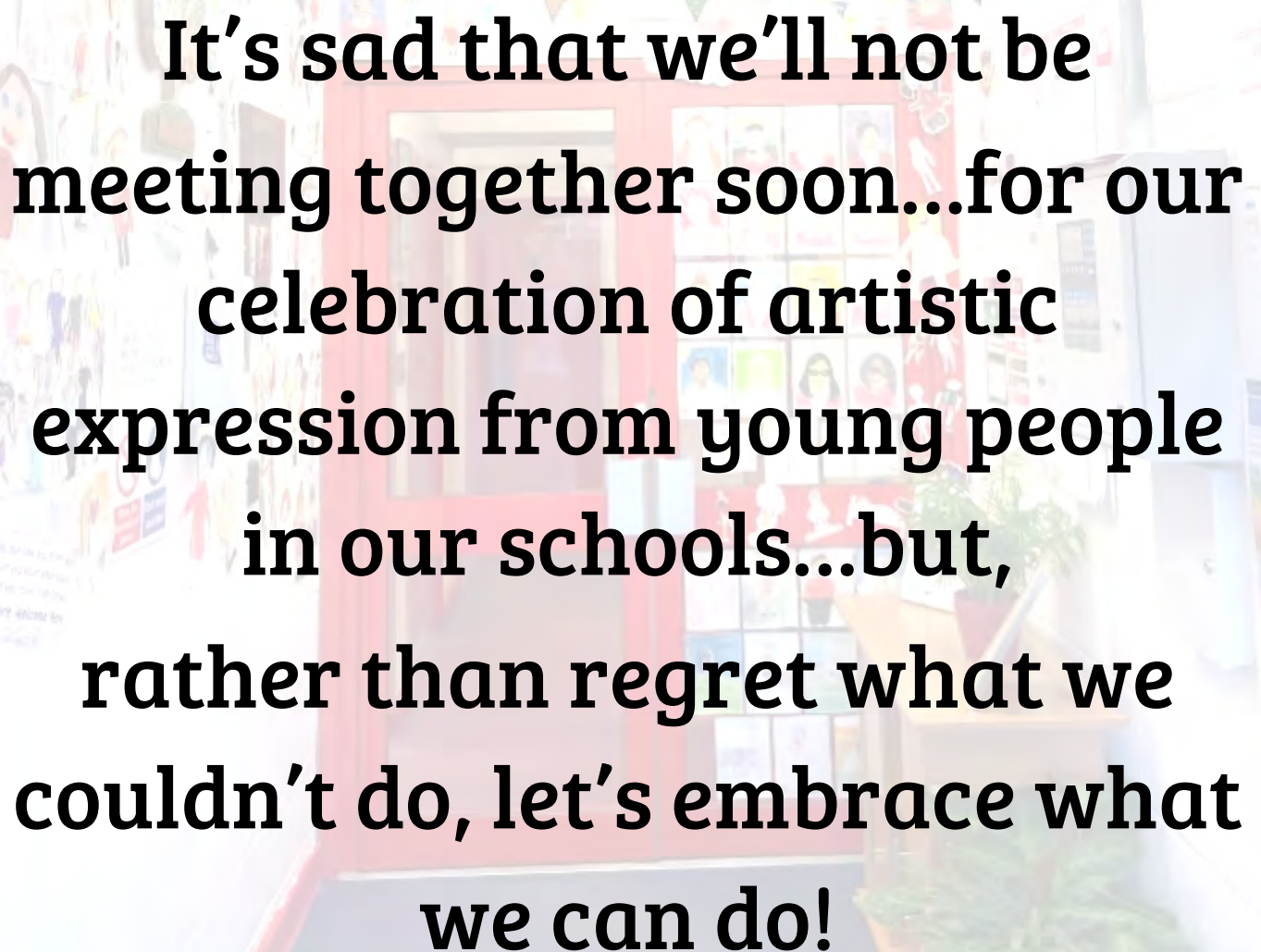
## OUR PLANS AND CHALLENGES

- Limited time for outreach to communicate with teaching staff and run virtual workshops about the possibilities offered by using the **IMAGINE Colouring Book**.
- For future years, set up workshops with teaching staff to look at ways of including resources produced for developing work around the **Refugee Week** theme.





## Projects which continued during the Pandemic: Schools of Sanctuary



**It's sad that we'll not be  
meeting together soon...for our  
celebration of artistic  
expression from young people  
in our schools...but,  
rather than regret what we  
couldn't do, let's embrace what  
we can do!**

(Extract from News Update to Swindon Schools of Sanctuary Network, June 2020)

# Projects which continued during the Pandemic: Schools of Sanctuary



**We all have a part to play building a welcoming and inclusive society.**

([Home](#) | [Schools of Sanctuary \(cityofsanctuary.org\)](#))

## Schools of Sanctuary in numbers

- 1,500+ young people
- 50+ teaching staff
- 3 new schools (total now 20)
- 1 new volunteer with lived experience
- 2 innovative new projects
- 2 new creative collaborations
- 3 new connections



*"I feel that wearing the SENCO hat in school now increases my understanding of the importance of inclusion even further...It would be great to be part of moving this (Schools of Sanctuary) forward into the future."*

Primary School Deputy Headteacher, March 2021



Photos from Westlea Primary School – showing what 'welcome' looks like in their school foyer

## **OUR PROJECT**

**Our project meets two of our Charitable Objects:**

- To provide or assist in the provision of facilities and activities for recreation or other leisure time occupations in the interests of social welfare with the object of improving the conditions of life of those persons who have need of such facilities.
- The prevention and relief of poverty amongst those granted refugee status and those seeking asylum in Swindon.

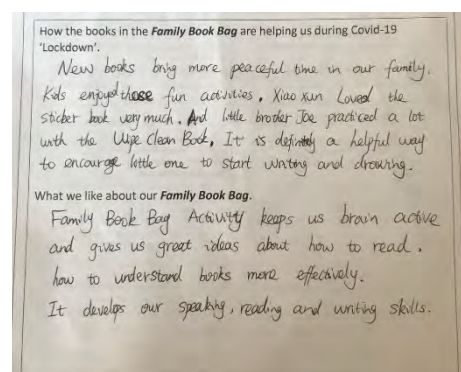
**From March 2020, the scope and nature of our schools' work inevitably changed.**

- With school closures, it became impossible to work directly with staff and young people until much later in the year. In line with our Swindon City of Sanctuary vision to promote a culture of safety, welcome and inclusion and with support from the Wiltshire Community Foundation Covid-19 Response funding, between March 2020 and November 2020, we focused on supporting local families seeking asylum whose school-age children were unable to access their school-closure work.
- Whilst schools were navigating complex systems for providing support to all vulnerable families, we felt our expertise and energies would be best used in maintaining our connections with some of the schools in our network by supporting vulnerable families in their communities who were in the asylum system. Our Schools of Sanctuary team planned to provide Family Activity Boxes (FAB!) filled with a selection of brand-new activities, games, books and toys to assist children's learning at home. Without internet access in Home Office asylum accommodation, families were unable to get updates of school-closure work from their children's schools. Through responses from the families who received the FAB! we learned how these activities became important continuity for building confidence and staying in touch with English speaking, reading and writing.
- Another important focus of our work throughout the year was to continue building a sustainable framework for developing and extending the importance of welcome, inclusion and social justice across the curriculum in an increasing number of Swindon schools. At the same time, we were also keen to extend new connections we had begun to make early in 2020 with other organisations to support our work.

## OUR SUCCESSES

At the end of last year (end of March 2020), the challenges facing us at the start of Lockdown#1 meant we were unsure about our developments and the impact of the work we had begun. Halted plans and school closures was not the ideal backdrop for staging success, but with our Schools of Sanctuary team's creativity to adapt the way we approached our work, our successes were abundant.

- Apart from the success of the FABs initiative, many other developments took shape throughout the year to strengthen our Schools of Sanctuary Network. By the end of April 2021, we had:
  - engaged and connected with three more schools
  - become adept at keeping in touch remotely with the incredible teaching staff who continued their contact with us
  - had connected with more local and national initiatives and organisations than we would have if there had not been three Lockdowns and unimaginable national disruption!
- With the support of The Harbour Project, we were able to prepare and deliver bespoke boxes of activities (FAB!) for families with school-age children not able to attend school during Lockdowns.
- We were supported in all stages of our FAB! Project developments by the expertise of a new volunteer with lived experience of seeking sanctuary. Their IT skills enabled us to set up some tablets for including in the FAB Extensions Project school resources and their proficiency in other languages led to translation support with instructions for the FAB!
- Building on our relationship with **Swindon Libraries**:
  - New books were donated and included in the **FAB!** Every family receiving a **FAB!** received a bag of new books relevant to the young people's age groups. Feedback from some of the families showed how important these books were to them and their children.
  - In September 2020, some families in the asylum process, who had recently arrived in Swindon, were introduced to and engaged with local literacy development projects led by **Swindon Libraries** and the **National Literacy Trust**. One parent, who had been in the UK for only a few weeks, became a volunteer Literacy Champion with the **Hungry Little Minds** initiative.





- By the end of 2020, we had welcomed three new schools into our network; all three contacted us requesting support from our Schools of Sanctuary team as new young people from families seeking asylum had joined their schools. One of these schools was Westlea Primary School.

October 2020 saw Swindon City of Sanctuary Schools' team, in collaboration with The Harbour Project, run our first remote whole staff CPD at Westlea Primary School.

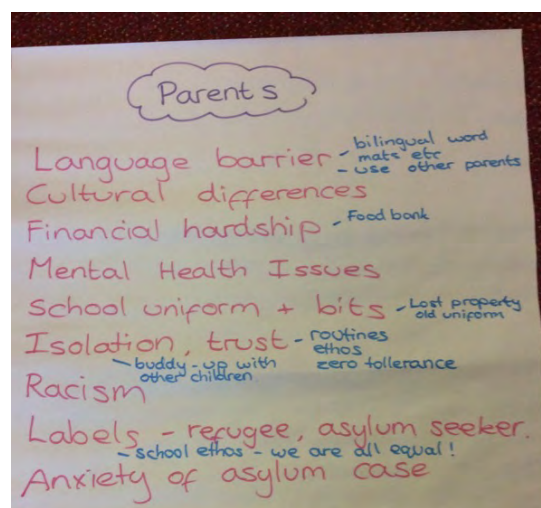
The workshop, *Seeking Sanctuary – Shaping Our Understanding: How to Work Supportively in Our School* was a bespoke 90-minute session responding to the school's request for assistance with language support for children newly arrived at the school whose families were going through the asylum process.

This need to find language support is not new, it is repeated across our town and country, but meeting the need is challenging; it is not as straightforward as simply finding someone to translate the language.

Behind this need for language support is a cultural gap; a gap often filled with media-sourced (mis)information and unhelpful stereotypes – hence the school's desire to be well-informed in order to welcome new families and know how best to support them.

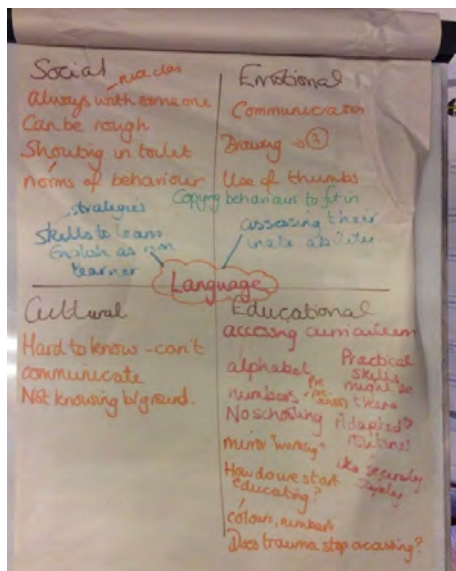
With all families being unique, we are keen to inform all schools that there are no quick-fix answers. Given that people seeking asylum are likely to have experienced a range of very difficult challenges which may have impacted on their mental and physical health, and their confidence with settling into entirely new contexts, we ensure that our staff CPD sessions for all schools, begin with an understanding of:

- the challenges facing the parents new to the experience of the UK education system;
- the challenges facing the staff who are welcoming and teaching the young people new to the school;
- the challenges facing the young people themselves settling in to an entirely new experience where language is a barrier.



Exploring these challenges, enables schools to begin to find their own solutions to meet the needs of the families in their communities. This approach, along with more specific information about the countries from which the families have had to flee, and some generic detail about what may have led to the need for people to flee and seek asylum outside their home countries, was well-received.





Feedback from the staff was very positive, "Really good background knowledge to help us understand where our children are coming from and what their lived experience might have been... 'Home' poem (by Warsan Shire) was especially thought-provoking."

The realisation that there was more to learn than was possible in 90 minutes was important, "Time to do activities in groups was really good as we had time to talk and reflect... we could have spent much more time on this as I don't think we managed to do a fraction of the things we could have done!"

These reflections have been important for the way the school has continued their positive work across the curriculum and enrichment programmes, and with the FAB! Extensions Project. We hope Westlea Primary School's work will take them on their journey towards becoming an accredited School of Sanctuary by 2023.

- Our connections with the wider community through attendance at networking Zoom and Teams meetings was much greater than pre-pandemic days. This meant we were able to fully embrace new ways of communicating with and involving schools with School of Sanctuary developments. Volunteer members of our Schools of Sanctuary team joined webinars and meetings for a number of local and national initiatives from, the Wiltshire and Swindon Youth Work Network exploring ways to support young people during school closures, to the National Institute for Economic and Social Research webinar series "Supporting Newly Arrived Migrants During Lockdown". The opportunity to share ideas with so many people across the country, and to pass on what was learned to the schools in our own Network, was enormously valuable.
- Throughout the year, we continued to engage with schools in our Network and remained connected to the national Schools of Sanctuary. Even though reaching schools physically was impossible, we kept in touch by sending termly news updates which included links to resources, reminders of key learning events on the Global Calendar and invitations to connect with us for specific events / activities. Through the South West Regional City of Sanctuary Network, our Schools Volunteer Lead was involved with a Sanctuary Award appraisal for a university in the region. Invaluable experience to gain an 'inside' understanding of the process – especially as we plan to guide a number of Swindon schools towards achieving Sanctuary Awards in the next few years. The Schools of Sanctuary UK Network grew throughout the year – leading online webinars and workshops for schools to join. Colleagues from some Swindon schools were able to participate in some of these – and to begin making connections with schools experiencing similar challenges.

- Some of our Swindon schools fully engaged with planning and preparing for **Refugee Week 2021** – this is testament to their continued commitment to Schools of Sanctuary developments. From November 2020, we had sown seeds with some schools in our Network about the amazing inspirational arts event, **The Walk**. By March 2021, the idea had gathered interest for basing some of our schools' work for Refugee Week around the project. Every year since 2017 when our Schools of Sanctuary team first formed, Refugee Week has been a brilliant opportunity for all involved to explore perceptions, develop understanding, and consider welcome and inclusion in our communities for people who make (and have made) migratory journeys, particularly people seeking sanctuary.

The theme for **Refugee Week 2021**, **We Cannot Walk Alone**, was an invitation to us to extend our hands and welcome people who are new to our communities. Sharing **The Walk** project with colleagues in our Network at virtual workshops in April 2021 was not only an inspirational trigger for endless possibilities for Arts-based work and broader curriculum approaches to migration, it was also a tremendous boost to morale.

At the end of one of our April 2021 workshops (we ran the same one three times to enable as many colleagues as possible to attend) positive feedback comments were plentiful.

From a primary school Deputy Head, *"It's great to get back to the things I love doing in school!"*

From our artistic mentor, Bekah Grace (inspiration behind the **Refugee Week 2020 IM-AGINE Colouring Book**), *"It was such a great meeting. I'm buzzing about the ideas that two of the teachers came up with after our session today...I love the good things that always come from learning about, celebrating and supporting Refugee Week!"*

From a Citizenship Lead in one of our secondary schools, *"I definitely want to celebrate Refugee Week this year in school... hopefully with restrictions lifting in schools and outside life, I can plan something for the whole school to participate in."*

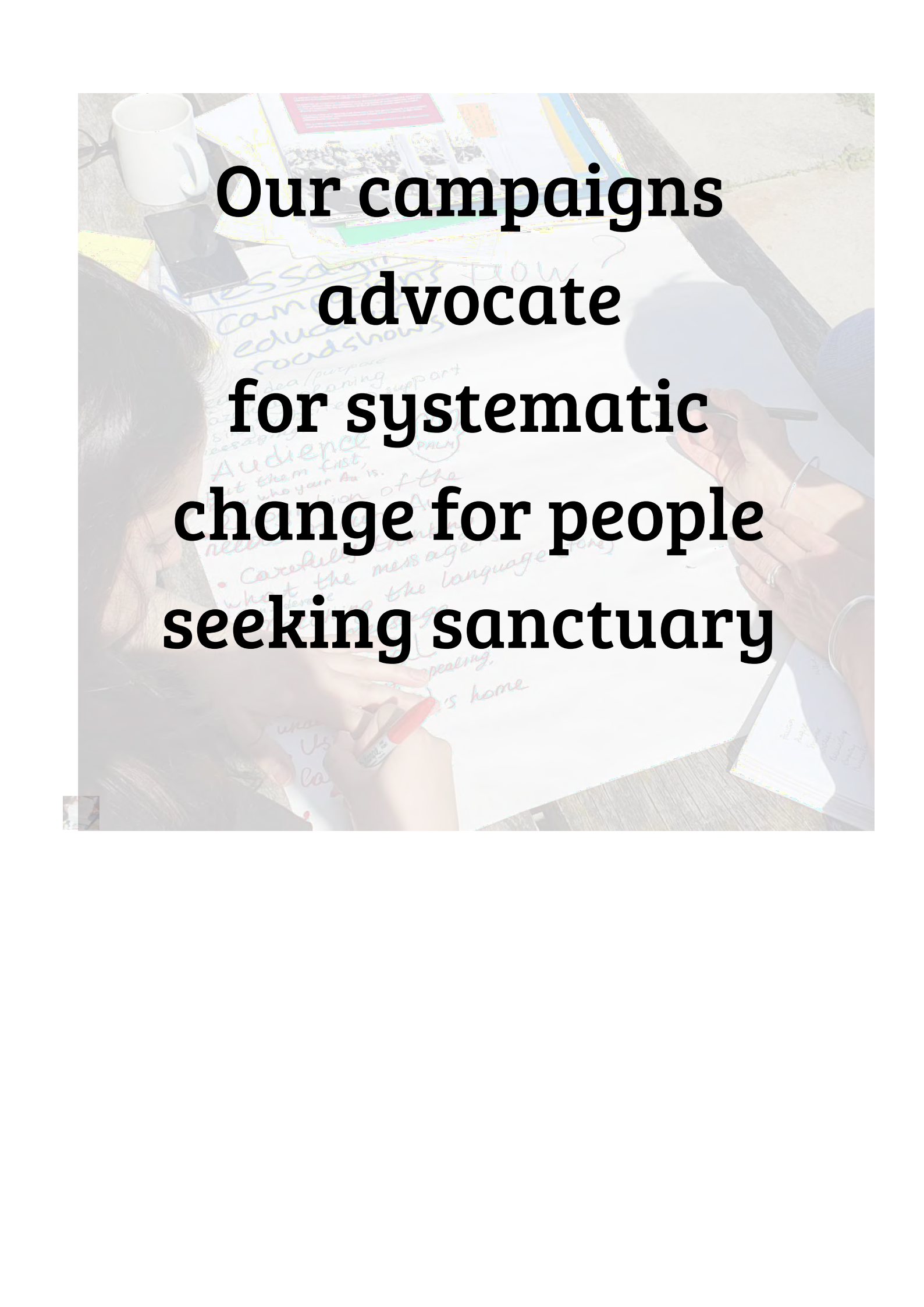
We look forward to seeing and sharing the work that **The Walk** project inspired in classrooms, corridors and playgrounds around Swindon.

- So, our year ended with hope! (It is no coincidence that the name of the 3.5m tall puppet character featured in The Walk project, Amal, is the Arabic word for 'hope') We have been in awe of our teaching colleagues who have kept up connections and curriculum developments around 'welcome' and 'inclusion', and who have had to become as accomplished with remote teaching as with face-to-face classroom teaching – and on many occasions having to do both! We look forward to continuing our work together into next year.

## OUR PLANS AND CHALLENGES

- One of our plans for last year, that was significantly affected by Covid-19 was to extend our work around community cohesion and inclusion by reaching out to all EAL teaching staff to bring them together to learn and share ideas, expertise, and resources within the context of EAL support for multi-lingual learners. We hope to return to this development.

- To bring together colleagues and young people to extend messages of welcome and inclusion across the town.
- Continue to bring together colleagues in our Network schools to share curriculum developments in SMSC, Citizenship and PSHE around social justice and the human right to sanctuary.
- To work closely with some schools to enable them to achieve their School of Sanctuary Award
- Further collaboration with Create Studios to develop Citizenship-related projects for primary and secondary schools



**Our campaigns  
advocate  
for systematic  
change for people  
seeking sanctuary**

The background image shows a group of people gathered around a large table, writing on a large sheet of paper. The paper has handwritten notes in various colors, including blue, red, and black. The notes include phrases like "Message", "Campaign", "educational roadshows", "Audience", "Careful's thinking", "what the message is", "the language", "speaking", and "home". There is also a small diagram of a person's head with the word "Audience" written inside. A white mug is visible on the table in the top left corner.

# Projects which continued during the Pandemic:

## Campaigning



### Campaigning in numbers:

- 3 key campaigns
- 1 person advocated for successfully

### OUR PROJECT

A key aspect to being part of the national **City of Sanctuary** network is campaigning for change to the asylum process so that it is more just and equitable. As such, we work at local, regional and national level engaging with key partners to help bring about positive changes for people seeking asylum.

This initiative meets more than one of our **Charitable Objects**:

- To advance the education of the public in general, especially in Swindon, about the issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum.
- The promotion of equality and diversity for the public benefit by promoting activities to foster understanding and engagement between people from diverse backgrounds.



## OUR SUCCESSES

- **Advocacy:** we successfully advocated on behalf of one person this year with a positive outcome by helping to relocate a previous guest in our hosting scheme. They were going to be accommodated miles away from Swindon but with our advocacy they are now in accommodation nearby in Gloucestershire. The success of our advocacy means they are still able to see their support network in Swindon which makes a huge difference to their mental health.
- **Participation in national campaigns to improve the lives of people seeking sanctuary in the UK:**
  - In September 2020 we added our names to the Joint Letter to the Prime Minister put together by Migrants Rights Network, NACCOM and Asylum Matters. The letter referred to the Home Office restarting evictions from asylum accommodation for people who have had a negative decision on their asylum claim. The letter outlined the significant concerns about the decision and called for an immediate halt on evictions alongside more support for Local Authorities to meet the needs of people with NRPF (No Recourse to Public Funds).
  - We continued to support **Lift The Ban** campaign (to give those in the asylum system the right to work) and engaged with local MPs on the issue.
  - We joined calls with national partners against the use of army barracks as accommodation for people seeking sanctuary.
  - We supported and joined the **TALK/together Project**. **TALK/together** is the largest ever survey on what unites us and divides us. Over 150,000 people took part. Our involvement was through filling out surveys and participating in online in-depth discussions. The report revealed, *'...we are a society at a crossroads. We have witnessed a remarkable upsurge in neighbourliness and community spirit, which most of us strongly wish to see continue. Yet, we can see that significant divisions persist and there is the fear that, if not addressed, these have the potential to deepen in future'*. This report is a helpful guide for the work we continue to do in Swindon to help create a more welcoming and inclusive town.
  - We contributed to the national **City of Sanctuary**, and the national hosting network **NACCOM's** annual survey, which helps to give a national picture and inform where policy changes are needed.

## OUR PLANS AND CHALLENGES

Due to a number of political changes some of our plans were affected and delayed:

- Meetings with our local MPs. The emergence of Covid-19 and Lockdown, made it difficult to re-establish and maintain contact with local MPs, though they still responded to individual requests for advocacy.
- The annual event **Sanctuary in Parliament**, which gives people seeking sanctuary living in Swindon an opportunity to meet their local MPs and others in government, was cancelled this year. We hope to be able to re-join this annual event in future.

### Planning for 2021-2022 we are now:

- Trying to arrange a virtual meeting with our MPs to re-establish communication and inform them of the work we are doing in Swindon
- Envisaging an opportunity to engage and work more with our Local Authority and to better inform them of our work
- Planning to increase the involvement of people with lived experience of recent migration, especially within our local campaigning work and Streams and Awards development. It is only with the voices of people with lived experience at the forefront of our organisation (e.g. Trustees, Staff and Volunteers) that meaningful and long-lasting change will occur
- Planning to build on knowledge gained from attending national training workshops, and to attend further training, to enable more effective campaigning.

# Responsive Support During Pandemic: Remote Befriending

**Remote Befriending** in numbers:

- 1 beneficiary

## OUR PROJECT

When Covid19 Government restrictions began we first considered the support we already provide successfully which could also be adapted to remote support for people seeking sanctuary who were facing potentially long periods of social isolation like so many others in our Swindon community.

We made a plan to extend our already established volunteer befriending which we provided for guests on our **Room for All Hosting Scheme** through our Volunteer Support Workers. Many of our volunteers had spare time during the pandemic and reached out to see if they could help and we soon had a list of volunteers to provide **Remote Befriending**.

We opened up this support, usually provided only to guests and hosts in our hosting scheme to any person seeking sanctuary in Swindon (people in the asylum system, with their leave to remain and those with no recourse to public funds). The remote support was to give people someone to talk to and if any issues arose then our volunteers could direct them to the most useful support, agencies etc.

The Remote Befriending was in addition to keeping in touch with those we currently support and had relations with through our other projects. We planned to match volunteers with someone once we received a referral (though an agency or self-referral) and for the volunteer to be in contact with them on a weekly basis.

This initiative met our **Charitable Objects**:

- The promotion of equality and diversity for the public benefit by promoting activities to foster understanding and engagement between people from diverse backgrounds.

## **OUR SUCCESSES**

- We quickly formed a base of volunteers ready to support the Remote Befriending scheme.
- We received our first referral 2 weeks into launch

## **OUR PLANS AND CHALLENGES**

- Our first referral was our only referral during the 3 month trial period from March – May 2020, they were newly arrived to Swindon. We kept in contact with them on a weekly basis during the first lockdown and helped direct them to other agencies where appropriate.
- The stigma around asking for support or admitting outwardly that you might be suffering from social isolation led to the decision after the 3 month trial to not continue this project. By this point our FAB! Project was really making a difference, the families receiving the boxes also contacted us through WhatsApp some regularly and so we decided to direct our time and attention fully to the FAB! Families.

# Responsive Support During the Pandemic: FAB! and FAB! Extensions Project

## FAB! in numbers:

20 families  
28 school-age young people  
2 pre-school children  
20 FAB!  
100 books  
200+ activities and games



## OUR PROJECT

In March 2020 our Schools initiative was faced with the challenges of Covid and imminent 'lockdown'. We could foresee that for those families seeking sanctuary with school-age children the implications of this government decision might be particularly difficult. We realised that we must put a plan into action as soon as possible and that any action should be carefully researched and managed.

When schools closed Swindon's City of Sanctuary Schools' Team discussed the issues that would now arise for our town's sanctuary seeking families. Their children were not eligible to still attend school, had few resources at home and no WiFi in their Home Office accommodation. This meant they were unable to access the work being set by their teachers. Out of the team's discussions emerged the idea of the Family Activity Box (FAB!) which would contain 'educational but fun' activities, puzzles and games to support young people whilst they weren't at school.

This project meets one of our **Charitable Objects**:

- The promotion of equality and diversity for the public benefit by promoting activities to foster understanding and engagement between people from diverse backgrounds.

## OUR SUCCESSES:

- Funding from The Wiltshire Community Foundation, the generous donation of books from Swindon Libraries and National Literacy Trust, and the amazing drive, commitment and availability of our staff and volunteer team, we wouldn't have been able to do any of what we did.
- A number of teachers in our Swindon Schools of Sanctuary Network helped in the research stages of creating and compiling the **Family Activity Boxes (FABs)** for the school-age children of the families seeking asylum in our community. See more here: <https://swindon.cityofsanctuary.org/2020/05/22/fab-family-activity-boxes>  
Some offered physical resources, some offered ideas, some researched a range of resources and some informed us of problems experienced by some of the families who attend their schools. Whatever their contributions, they were all incredible and enabled our small team of **Swindon City of Sanctuary** staff



and volunteers to put together something special, unique and brand new, for twenty school-age children and young people in fifteen families seeking asylum known to **The Harbour Project**.

- We worked closely with staff from **The Harbour Project** who knew which families would benefit from receiving **FABs**; families who had little or no access to online resources from their children's schools during 'lockdown'; families who may not have had the understanding of how to make contact directly with their children's teachers. Having the names and ages of the children and young people meant we were able to personalise the **FABs** and the **Book Bags**. The **Book Bags** contained three or four brand new books donated by **Swindon Libraries** and the **National Literacy Trust**.
- Once our small staff and volunteer team of four had put together all the research and resources ideas from the Network teachers and from our own research, we then:
  - downloaded a collection of amazing puzzles, activities and challenges from **TWINKL** (who had enabled free access to the full range of their incredible resources during school closure);
  - ordered puzzles, games and activities from **The Works** and **Baker Ross**.
  - Within a few weeks, the sanitised **FABs** and their carefully sanitised contents were ready for delivery, along with the fortnightly food packs prepared by **The Harbour Project** staff and volunteer team.
  - Within two weeks, our amazing team had created 15 **FABs**! full of arts and craft items, puzzles, games and activities carefully chosen for the ages of the 20 school-age (ages 5-16 years) children and young people in 15 families. All these resources will help young people with their English learning during this time. We will continue to top-up the **FABs**! until the funding ends in July.

*Having received funding from the Wiltshire Community Foundation's Wiltshire and Swindon Corona Virus Response Grant, we consulted with The Harbour Project, who welcomed the initiative and agreed to help us in identifying the families who would benefit from **FABs**!*

Nicola Wood, Swindon City of Sanctuary



## OUR PLANS AND CHALLENGES

- Receiving feedback from families who were less confident in speaking English
- Keeping in touch with the families who had contacted us
- Best practice for continuing and connecting with schools for wider literacy engagement.
- Finding further funding for widening our outreach with schools.
- Extending initial involvement of Swindon Libraries and other literacy projects.

## FAB! EXTENSIONS PROJECT

### FAB Extensions Project in numbers:

- 1 Project Coordinator
- 2 pilot schools
- 4 FAB! for schools
- 5 tablets



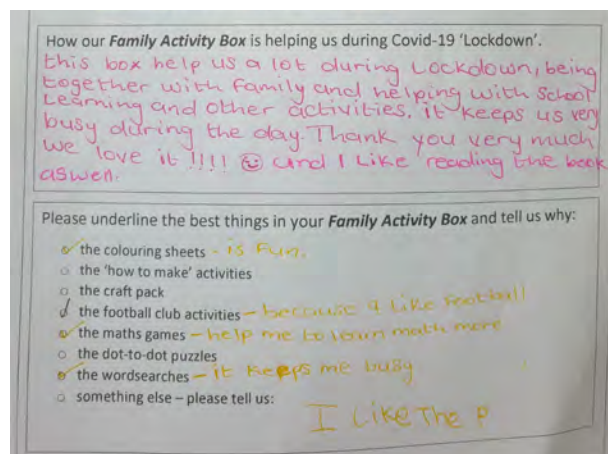
This project meets one of our **Charitable Objects**:

- The promotion of equality and diversity for the public benefit by promoting activities to foster understanding and engagement between people from diverse backgrounds.

### OUR PROJECT

Due to the success of the FAB! project during Lockdown1we realised there was exciting potential for refining, developing and expanding the project for the rest of the year. The boxes themselves had real value as a literacy resource in their own right and in this way FAB! could continue during subsequent Lockdowns and beyond. We also felt that FAB! might be something schools could use as part of their work on the Schools of Sanctuary Award and as support with their existing EAL provision. Our ideas for expansion were stimulated by enthusiastic feedback from families who had used the boxes.

We wanted to shift the focus from direct family support to looking at our support with schools to develop their work around 'welcome' and 'inclusion'. This way, the project would sit holistically within our Schools of Sanctuary stream.



A crucial part of the extension work would be for schools to extend parental engagement in literacy, especially for families who have other first languages. We wanted to seek further collaboration with Swindon Central Library to help develop the National Literacy Trust's work on Literacy Champions where we would encourage some parents (with sanctuary seeking backgrounds) to become (digital) Literacy Champions and engage with The Reading Agency collaboration and Reading Sparks. We would also aim to initiate meetings between schools, the Library and the creator of the original Story-sacks, **Children's Writer and Educational Guru Neil Griffiths**.

Basically, our FAB Extensions Project would enable schools to provide literacy support in fun and engaging ways to involve families of multi-lingual learners by:

- Using the new boxes as they felt appropriate to meet the needs of multi-lingual learners;
- Assisting schools to connect families with Swindon Libraries and the National Literacy Trust;
- Introducing and creating Story-Sacks;

## OUR SUCCESSES:

- **In August 2020 we prepared and sent a funding application to Postcode Neighbourhood Trust for FAB! Extensions Project. In November 2020 we successfully received the £16,700 that we had costed and applied for. A press release was sent to our local newspaper to celebrate our success.**
- **In December 2020 we appointed our (very proficient) new member of staff, Stella Mortazavi; the FAB! Extensions Project Coordinator (FAB!EPC).**
- **We received confirmation that Local Giving funding could be used for the purchase of 5 tablets, one for each of the 5 prototype new FABs. This was a boost to families who would now have access to digital resources sent by both ScoS and their School.**
- **A dynamic relationship was built, initially with two pilot schools Westlea and Drove, via digital contact.**
- **A foundation for planning was firmly established with Neil Griffiths the creator of Story-sacks, with the view to collaborate between FAB!, our Schools and Swindon Libraries. The Story-sacks with their focus on oracy and storytelling had potential for bringing multi-lingual families together in a fun and engaging way.**
- **Collaboration with, and between Swindon Libraries, the National Literacy Trust and Schools was established to plan and discuss projects such as Literacy Champions, Swindon Libraries and the Reading Agency's Reading Sparks initiative.**



## OUR PLANS AND CHALLENGES

- **It soon became clear that due to Covid 19 and Lockdown it was difficult to recruit Volunteers to support the expansion of this project. Without extra help with researching resources and assembling boxes in particular, progress could be frustratingly slow.**
- **Being unable to engage children and families and the schools face-to-face, due to the constraints of Covid 19 and Lockdown, made the exchange of information more challenging.**
- **We intend to continue with the project for the future and hopefully with the eventual lifting of restrictions we will be able to visit our schools, children and their families in person. Although we met most of our aims despite Covid-19, we know that personal contact will be instrumental to the ultimate success of this project.**

# Organisational Development and Governance

This is our Third year as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and it is also our fifth year since **Swindon City of Sanctuary** began as a small voluntary steering group.

This year has seen us face the challenges of a pandemic. Using our expertise and strength as a team staff, volunteers and trustees have risen to meet the changing needs within our local community and for people seeking sanctuary.

## OUR SUCCESSES

- We have strengthened our links and contacts with the national network of City of Sanctuary, and NACCOM (The No Accommodation Network)
- We have continued to collaborate with Schools, with Swindon Library, the National Literacy Trust and local artists despite the pandemic.
- We have created our [Case for Support](#) which has helped us to summarise the first four years of our charity's impact and this in turn has influenced our consultation and strategic decisions for the next 5 years.
- Throughout 2020-2021, our Board of Trustees has been busy:
  - with a year of reflection
  - working on strategic development
  - recruiting more people to the Board including a new Treasurer with accountancy expertise and a new trustee with skills and experience from the charity sector who also has lived experience of seeking sanctuary
  - maintaining clear and regular communication
  - two trustees have taken on specific roles to directly support staff (Charity Manager and FAB! Coordinator)
  - attending online local and national conferences
  - acting as Volunteers to administrate and organise Events for our online Refugee Week and Schools of Sanctuary coordination

## OUR PLANS AND CHALLENGES

We have been unafraid to admit when projects have needed some reflection, reviewing, and revising. In some instances, we have made bold strategic decisions to move away from certain projects in order to maintain clearer focus on our work. We have learnt where we are most needed in Swindon and where to focus our time and attention using the skills and knowledge that we have within the charity. This way, we feel that we will have the best positive impact in making Swindon a Welcoming and Inclusive Town.

By the end of the year we were facing further challenges with the continuation of Covid-19, more nationwide Lockdowns, and an uncertain and unpredictable year ahead for the whole of the UK.

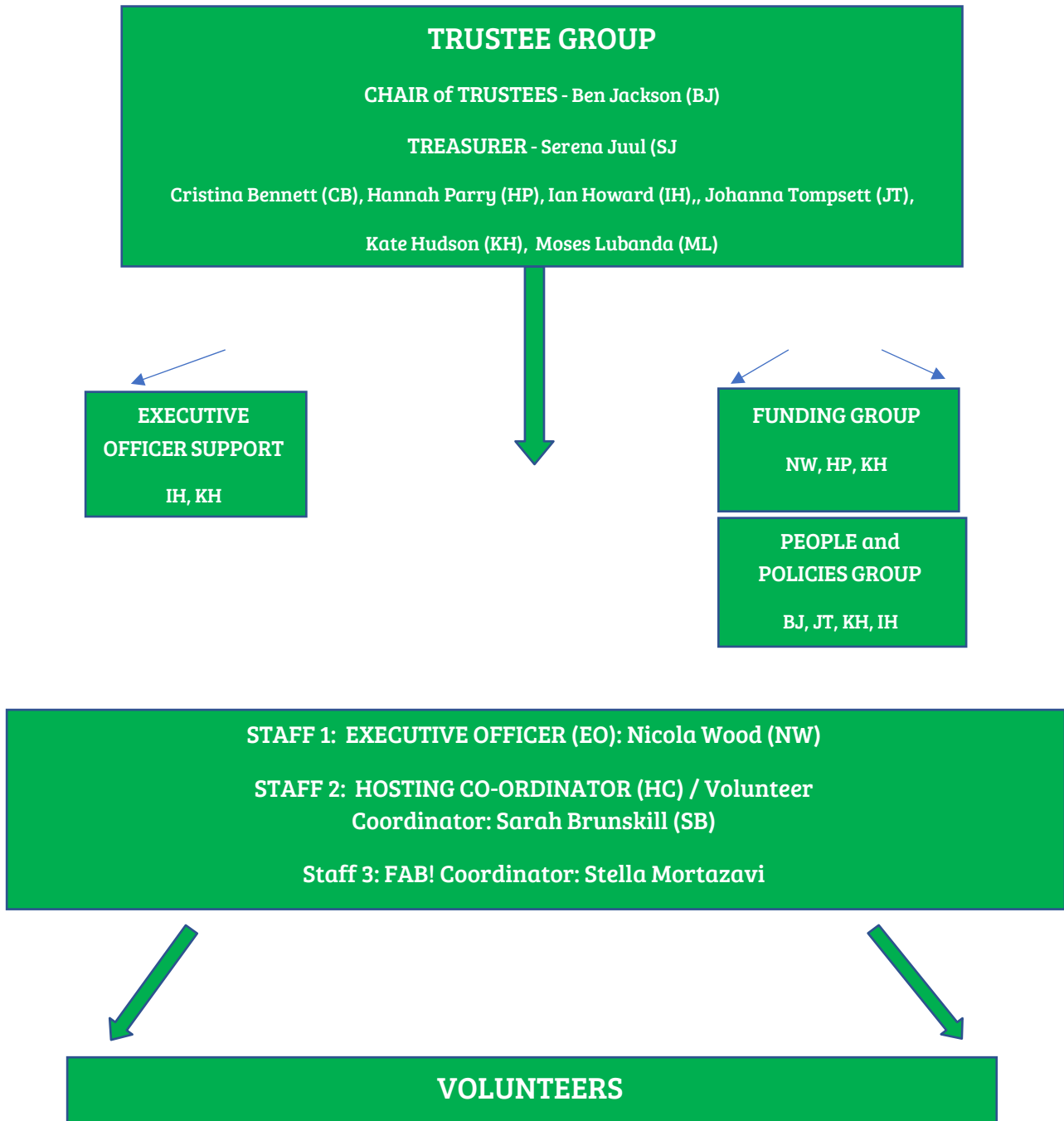
- Our funding from the incredibly supportive **Joffe Charitable Trust** would come to an end in May 2021. This focussed the Board's attention to funding that would support our plans for the

next five years. With funding being key to the future of the charity we began to anticipate solutions:

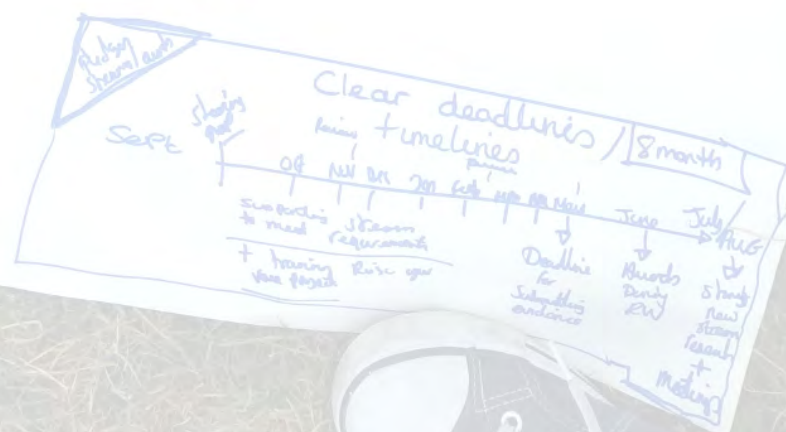
- Bringing in an expert fundraiser to support us in applying for core funding and to support our Streams and Awards of Sanctuary work
- Taking up the free offer of support through our Respond and Adapt Grant to access expert consultants from the Lloyds Enhance Programme to guide us with our Theory of Change and small funders applications.
- Anticipating further challenges with our projects and initiatives as we moved cautiously towards the next financial year, we:
  - Implemented our five- year plan which focuses on Streams and Sanctuary Awards for Schools
  - Created a plan to re-open our weekly social We're Open, safely and when restrictions are lifted.
  - Built on the success of FAB! With our extension project and new employee
  - Focused on funding and fundraising to secure the future of our core roles
  - Continued to work towards creating a sense of community and hospitality in our town, through projects like **We're Virtually Open**, the **FABs**, **Refugee Week** initiatives with schools
  - Continued to participate in national and global campaigns for social justice for people seeking sanctuary
  - Disseminated our achievements to the national network (through City of Sanctuary UK online regional and national meetings) in order to help drive change



# Trustees and Staff 2020-2021



**During our consultation  
we researched people's  
lived experiences of  
'welcome' and 'inclusion'  
to help us establish need  
and actions for our  
future work.**



# Consultation

## Consultation in numbers:

- 12 people with lived experience of the asylum system interviewed

## THE CONSULTATION

A detailed analysis of our consultation – its process and results – is available on request. Please contact Nicola Wood: [info@swindon.cityofsanctuary.org](mailto:info@swindon.cityofsanctuary.org))

What follows here is a simple overview of the main finding which will influence the future direction of some of our work.

By talking to a small cross-section of people seeking sanctuary\* who live in Swindon, we aimed to find out their experiences of 'welcome' and 'inclusion'. What we found has helped us establish 'need' as well as 'actions' for our future work, especially in the light of the impact of the pandemic and how this might influence change.

*"Welcome is more than just a greeting, and inclusion is more than an invitation to participate in something. The phrase, 'welcome and inclusion' refers to a whole inter-connected process which enables all people new to Swindon, especially those seeking sanctuary, to feel safe, settled, engaged with, involved in, and belong to the place where they live."*

## Why is 'welcome and inclusion' important? Simply put:

- If people don't feel welcomed and included in a community, they may experience social isolation and may be less likely to know how to influence or affect change.
- People may feel socially isolated and lack a sense belonging in the community.
- With opportunities that enable people to engage with and get involved in the place where they live, there is more chance to feel a sense of belonging which could empower and inspire.
- Belonging offers more chance to help change and broaden a community's attitude to those labelled (incorrectly) by the media as 'illegal' and a drain on our communities' resources.

## The questions:

- Being aware that respondents might be less confident with speaking English, staff and trustees worked together to form questions based on 'welcome and inclusion'.

- Our final draft, influenced by opinions and guidance from The Harbour Project and feedback from a pilot sample, focused on Swindon and the sense of community in the town, our charity, and the impact of Covid-19.

## The Interviews (aka: Consultation Conversations):

- We anticipated all consultation conversations as face-to-face discussions, or to speak to people in small group settings, but Covid-19 and lockdown restrictions prevented this. However, a few of the consultations were conducted in person during a **Harbour Project** drop-in session just before Lockdown.
- To ensure confidentiality and the option of anonymity, all respondents received a consent form;
- All responses were noted on a secure Google form.

## Results

This simple overview reveals what we had anticipated:

- Over 50% responded positively to the question: *Do you like living in Swindon?* Further exploration about why the respondents like living in Swindon revealed the importance of the need to belong in a community.
- The following examples taken from responses show that the feeling of belonging is complex and have given us some significant pointers for our future work at SCoS.

*"...joining a community organisation enables me to meet people.*

*"I feel safe and secure in Swindon," but "I don't go out a lot, I wait for my son to come home."*

*"It (being trapped in the asylum process) can be an incredibly lonely experience. Two hours spent there (at We're Open) once a week makes a big difference; it takes away a lot of sadness, stress and anxiety of isolation "*

## OUR SUCCESSES

- Despite the inherent constraints of the pandemic, organising and completing the consultations - some of which were face-to-face.
- We received clear and useful responses that could influence how we might develop, re-shape and improve how we work as an organisation.

## OUR CHALLENGES

- As a result of the Consultation we discovered that the whole experience of **how to go about finding out about community organisations** in the neighbourhood and **knowing how to join** remain elusive to some people.
- Community spaces need to be accessed in which people who seek sanctuary can feel safe outside their home to help them avoid mental health issues related to social isolation.

- Gender differences in responses were evident. These often have complex cultural origins and contexts, which do not and cannot change for someone when they move to another country. This needs to be taken into consideration when planning events and project
- It was revealed that confidence with speaking an unfamiliar language also has an impact on a person's feeling of security so building EAL/Literacy support into our core work will be vital.
- It has also become clear from the consultation that we need to continue our campaigning, weave in more training sessions that educate communities we work with about the asylum process, racism and hate crime.

## OUR PLANS

Our consultation and the impact of Covid among our beneficiaries and the Swindon community has refreshed our strategic focus. Our new strategy for 2021 represents a shift from a 'service delivery' to a more 'enabling' organisation, and sets out our focus on 2 key areas – led by, and working alongside people with Lived Experience of Migration wherever possible:

### Systemic Change & Awareness Raising

- **Streams & Awards of Sanctuary**
  - Encouraging the town's communities to come together and embed the concepts of welcome, safety and inclusion within their professions, sectors, and organisations, through gaining a Sanctuary Award.
  - In the next 5 years we plan to support institutions such as Swindon Central Library to gain their Award. The award is not just a token gesture but a way for an organisation to celebrate what they are already doing to be an inclusive, welcoming place for all but also to work on areas where there are gaps in their understanding and practice when it comes to sanctuary seekers, migration and Equality, Diversity, and inclusion and being an actively anti-racist organization.
- **Education**
  - Working with schools in Swindon to broaden understanding of the positive impact of migration and how people seeking sanctuary enrich our culturally diverse town.
  - FAB! Project -social inclusion, family engagement through literacy using creative and educational resources in partnership with Swindon Libraries & the National Literacy Trust.
- **Campaigning**
  - Supporting national campaigns which highlight the challenges of seeking sanctuary and improve the lives of those who come into our community.



## **Meaningful connections, building community**

- **We're Open, weekly evening social**

- This has been temporarily suspended due to Covid 19 but face to face meetings at our designated venue will return once restrictions are lifted.

- **Refugee Week & Events**

- We will collaborate with organisations and communities who are managing local events so that we can reach the wider community who might not be engaged with our work.

- **Wellbeing Project**

- We intend to re-establish free, accessible group yoga and 1:1 therapy sessions for the community (linking with other charities such as Mind, Medaille Trust etc.)

# Ambitions and Long-term Strategy

We would like once again to take this opportunity to thank the institutions which have made our work possible through their generous funding, especially the Joffe Trust, whose support over the last three years has been fundamental to our success. Our funding from the Joffe Trust was due to come to an end in May 2021. It is not overstating things to say that without this funding, we would not exist as a registered charity today.

We would also like to thank the following organisations for grants and continued support throughout 2020-21:

- Wiltshire Community Foundation
- Respond and Adapt
- People's Neighbourhood Trust
- Cooperative Community Fund
- NACCOM
- Wiltshire Police and Crime Commissioner
- Swindon Parish Council.
- Everyone who donated this year via Local Giving

Again, we have to reference Covid-19. The strategy outlined below is consistent where possible with our previous strategic direction. We should make clear at this stage that after the first Covid Lockdown in March 2020, we had to make quick, tactical decisions to enable us to continue to support our beneficiaries despite the restrictions of the Lockdown. It is fair to say that our strategy for 2020-21 had to adapt very quickly from original plans. As we moved into the new year, our focuses were as follows.

## **We will continue:**

- To work with schools throughout the Swindon area to promote our Schools of Sanctuary educational programme
- To work with the local community, press, local politicians and councillors to ensure that the difficulties faced by people seeking asylum in our community are highlighted, and where possible, we will aim to contribute to national policy regarding asylum seeking
- To expand our capacity, our reach and our range of projects
- To support the ongoing development of our small team of employees

## **We will review:**

- How to shift focus from our Room for All programme to a new initiative more suited to a post-pandemic world
- How to provide direct and immediate assistance to people seeking sanctuary at risk of social isolation, especially as a result of the measures imposed to reduce transmission of Covid-19 (lockdown etc)
- How we manage and grow our volunteer community, to ensure that we maximise our impact while maintaining careful cost control
- How we invest our limited resources (financial and human) to best advantage
- Our diversification strategy – what other routes can we pursue in order to make Swindon City of Sanctuary truly sustainable, without relying solely on the generosity of grant funders

**We will begin:**

- A new literacy focussed initiative to support families seeking sanctuary in Swindon
- To seek significant core funding as well as funding to enable us to recruit personnel to coordinate our new, post-pandemic initiatives
- To create a financial surplus to enable us to run the charity for three months without any further funding
- To seek funding for additional Schools of Sanctuary developments over the coming years, as we identify both need and opportunity
- To expand our Board of Trustees to include some people with direct experience of seeking sanctuary and also to bring our board back up to optimal levels (our constitution states a maximum of 12 trustees, which would give us significant additional capacity to govern and support the organisation as it grows)

## Our year ahead at a glance 2021-2022:

### Projects:

#### Room for All – Hosting Scheme:

- To close the scheme and ensure that all beneficiaries are accommodated via alternative schemes / provision

#### We're Open:

- Re-establish the We're Open drop-in café when lockdown restrictions allow
- Ensure that appropriate risk assessments are conducted and risk mitigation measures are implemented and monitored when We're Open recommences
- Establish a new long-term venue for We're Open after a period of uncertainty
- Build long term funding channels for We're Open

#### Schools of Sanctuary:

- Expand the number of schools participating in the scheme
- Support teaching and support staff with managing the challenges of remote learning which are amplified for the sanctuary seeking community, including literacy support
- Increase the participation of members of our Advisory Group who have lived experience of migration
- Seek funding to ensure that we can continue our work in a sustainable way without relying on the leadership of a Schools' Lead Volunteer

#### Campaigns:

- Continue our work pressing for people seeking asylum to have access to free ESOL courses during their first six months in England
- Focus on three national campaigns for change: **End Indefinite Detention**, **Lift the Ban** and **Families Together**
- Contribute to the annual survey collated by national **City of Sanctuary** and national hosting network, **NACCOM**

#### Training:

- Implement training for our volunteers across our projects so that they gain a better understanding of our work, the asylum system and the issues that those we support may face
- Ensure that our employees have regular access to training and networking opportunities

#### Governance:

- Continue to review our people and financial strategies in order to ensure that our future, in a post-Covid world, is sustainable
- Ensure that the voices of people who have experienced migration, particularly those seeking sanctuary in the UK, are fully represented on our Board of Trustees and in our volunteer population

## Appendix 1



**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1177624**

Report of the Trustees and  
Unaudited Financial Statements For The Year Ended 30 April 2021  
for  
Swindon City of Sanctuary

Swindon City of Sanctuary  
Contents of the Financial Statements  
For year ended 30 April 2021

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Report of the Trustees	3-6
Statement of Financial Activities	7
Comparative Statement of Financial Activities	7
Balance Sheet	8
Notes to the Financial Statements	9-12
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities	13

Swindon City of Sanctuary  
Report of the Trustees  
For year ended 30 April 2021

The Trustees are pleased to present their annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 April 2021.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on page nine of the attached financial statements and comply with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011, regulations applicable to that Act, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), effective from accounting periods commencing 1st January 2015 or later.

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

**Registered Charity number**

1177624

**Principal address**

Voluntary Action Swindon  
1 John Street  
Swindon  
Wiltshire  
SN1 1RT

**Trustees**

K Hudson  
H Parry  
B Jackson (Chair)  
S Juul (Treasurer)  
J Tompsett  
C Bennett  
I Howard  
M Lubanda

**Bankers**

Metro	Coop Plc
One Southampton Row	PO Box 250
London	Skelmersdale
WC1B 5HA	WN8 6WT

Swindon City of Sanctuary  
Report of the Trustees  
For year ended 30 April 2021

## **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

### **Governing document**

The charity is controlled by its governing document dated 6<sup>th</sup> March 2018 and constitutes a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

### **Recruitment and appointment of new trustees**

Trustees are generally volunteers although some are contacted and recruited through other charitable organisations.

New trustees are requested to provide details of their key skills and competencies, which are used to complete a skills matrix for the entire board; this serves to inform training plans and to identify how best to deploy their skills in the service of the charity, and to identify skills gaps across the board. The charity holds strategy days and various workshops to inform trustees in respect of their roles.

### **Organisational structure**

The trustees are ultimately responsible for the policies, activities and assets of the charity. They meet regularly to review developments with regards to the charity, its activities and to make any important decisions. When necessary, the trustees seek advice and support from the charity's professional advisers.

### **Risk management**

In line with the requirement for trustees to undertake a risk assessment exercise and report on the same in their annual report, the trustees have looked at the risks. The trustees have identified five main areas where risks may occur and considered how they might mitigate against them:

**Governance and management risk** looks at the risk the charity might suffer from the lack of direction, the skills and training of the trustees and the good use of its funds.

- **Operational risk** looks at the risk inherent in the charity's activities including continuity of staff, lack of a disaster recovery policy, etc.
- **Financial risk** includes those arising as a result of poor budgetary control, inappropriate spending, poor accounting, etc.
- **Reputational risk** looks at the possible damage to the charity's reputation, through association with unsuitable charities, or with inappropriate activity.
- **Laws, regulations, external and environmental risk** looks at the effects of government policies and the consequences of non-compliance with the laws and regulations.

Having assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular to its finances, the trustees believe that by monitoring reserve levels, by ensuring that controls exist over the key financial systems, and by examining the operational and business risks faced by the charity, they have established effective systems to mitigate those risks.

Swindon City of Sanctuary  
Report of the Trustees  
For year ended 30 April 2021

## **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

### **Objectives and aims**

- To advance the education of the public in general, especially in Swindon, about the issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum;
- To provide or assist in the provision of facilities and activities for recreation or other leisure time occupations in the interests of social welfare with the object of improving the conditions of life of those persons who have need of such facilities;
- The promotion of equality and diversity for the public benefit by promoting activities to foster understanding and engagement between people from diverse backgrounds; and
- The prevention and relief of poverty amongst those granted refugee status and those seeking asylum in Swindon.
- Public benefit;
- The charity promotes activities to foster understanding and engagement between people from diverse backgrounds in order to fulfil its public benefit obligations.

### **Public Benefit**

In setting the charity's objectives and planning its activities the trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

### **Reserves policy**

The trustees will maintain adequate reserves to cover grant commitments and budgeted costs for the current financial year and maintain an appropriate budget for future years to cover longer term grant commitments.

### **Financial Summary**

Income for the year was £48,885 (2020 £36,369). Expenditure amounted to £31,195 (2020 £36,247). As a result, for the year ended 30th April 2021 there was a surplus of £17,689 (2020 surplus £121).



Swindon City of Sanctuary  
Report of the Trustees  
For year ended 30 April 2021

**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**

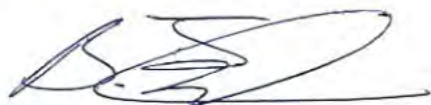
The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income and expenditure of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts; and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, applicable Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the charity's trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:



.....  
Ben Jackson

Date: .....28<sup>th</sup> February 2022.....

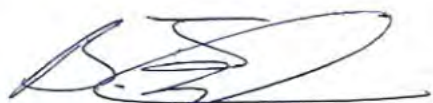
Swindon City of Sanctuary  
Statement of Financial Activities  
For year ended 30 April 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	2021 Total Fund	2020 Total Fund
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>					
Donations and legacies		5,885	42,998	48,883	36,368
Total		<u>5,885</u>	<u>42,998</u>	<u>48,883</u>	<u>36,368</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>					
Charitable Activities					
Support for Sanctuary seekers		2,674	28,519	31,193	36,247
<b>NET INCOME</b>		<u>3,211</u>	<u>14,479</u>	<u>17,690</u>	<u>121</u>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
Total Funds brought forward		<u>9,090</u>	<u>16,045</u>	<u>25,135</u>	<u>25,014</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<u>12,301</u>	<u>30,524</u>	<u>42,825</u>	<u>25,135</u>

Swindon City of Sanctuary  
Balance Sheet  
As at 30 April 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	2021 Total Fund	2020 Total Fund
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible assets:		-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL FIXED ASSETS</b>		-	-	-	-
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors:		-	-	-	-
Cash at bank:		12,300	30,525	42,825	25,136
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>12,300</b>	<b>30,525</b>	<b>42,825</b>	<b>25,136</b>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year:		-	-	-	-
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>12,300</b>	<b>30,525</b>	<b>42,825</b>	<b>25,136</b>
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year:		-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		-	-	-	-
<b>FUNDS</b>					
	6 & 7				
Unrestricted Funds				12,300	9,090
Restricted Funds				30,525	16,045
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>				<b>42,825</b>	<b>25,135</b>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 03/02/2022 and were signed on its behalf by:



B Jackson (Chair)

## **1. Accounting policies**

### ***Basis of preparation***

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006.

### ***Income***

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

### ***Expenditure***

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

### ***Taxation***

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

### ***Fund accounting***

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objectives of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

### ***Hire purchase and leasing commitments***

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Income & Expense Account on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

Swindon City of Sanctuary  
Notes to the Accounts  
For year ended 30 April 2021

**2. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
This is stated after charging:		
Other operating leases	-	-

**3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS**

There were no Trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 30 April 2021 nor for the year ended 30 April 2020.

**Trustees' expenses**

There were no Trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 30 April 2021 nor for the year ended 31 April 2020.

**4. STAFF**

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Administration	2	2

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000

**5. LOANS**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Bank overdraft	-	-
	-	-

Swindon City of Sanctuary  
Notes to the Accounts  
For year ended 30 April 2021

**6. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS**

	<b>O/Balance Total Fund</b>	<b>Incoming resources</b>	<b>Resources expensed</b>	<b>C/Balance Total Fund</b>
<b>UNRESTRICTED</b>				
General Fund	9,090	5,885	(2,675)	12,300
	<u>9,090</u>	<u>5,885</u>	<u>(2,675)</u>	<u>12,300</u>
<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>				
Joffe + Bath spa	3,532	20,000	(17,266)	6,266
We're Open*	5,078	(4,024)	0	1,054
Room for All	2,866	0	(2,866)	0
Refugee Week	1,896	0	(175)	1,721
Wiltshire Community*	729	(729)	0	0
Transport Fund	0	0	0	0
School of Sanctuary	217	0	(29)	188
Swindon Parish Council	1,728	0	(395)	1,333
Coop Community Fund	0	210	0	210
Respond & Adapt	0	10,000	(4,466)	5,534
Postcode Lottery	0	16,700	(2,596)	14,104
Local Giving Grant	0	841	(726)	115
				0
	<u>16,045</u>	<u>42,998</u>	<u>(28,519)</u>	<u>30,525</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>25,135</u>	<u>48,883</u>	<u>(31,193)</u>	<u>42,825</u>

\*N.B. The We're Open and Wiltshire community funds have been reclassified as Unrestricted as permission given to redistribute.



## **7. RESTRICTED FUNDS**

The charity operates the following restricted funds;

- a) **Joffe** - Funds provided to cover core costs of the charity's main employee, the executive officer
- b) **Room for all** - Funds to provide resources to host sanctuary seekers in hosts' homes in Swindon
- c) **We're open** - Funds to cover rent and drinks for a weekly social evening
- d) **Refugees week** - Funds relating to a week of activities celebrating sanctuary seekers in Swindon
- e) **Transport** - Funding for bus passes for sanctuary seekers
- f) **School of sanctuary** - Funds utilised for work in schools.
- g) **Swindon Parish Council** - Funds for publicity purposes only including short films
- h) **Respond & Adapt** – Wellbeing project
- i) **People Neighbourhood Trust** – Fab Extension and School Co-ordinator role

Swindon City of Sanctuary  
Detailed Income & Expense Account  
For year ended 30 April 2021

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>		
Gifts	-	-
Donations	48,883	36,368
	<u>48,883</u>	<u>36,368</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>		
Charitable Activities:		
Wages	23,182	23,552
Other Operating Leases	-	-
Office Rent & Room Hire	1,210	3,729
Insurance	304	304
Telephone	532	608
Computers & software	297	921
Postage and Stationery	100	162
Travelling	283	2,093
Sundry expenses	4,325	3,668
	<u>30,233</u>	<u>35,037</u>
Legal and professional costs:		
Accountancy fees	960	1,210
	<u>960</u>	<u>1,210</u>
	<u>17,690</u>	<u>121</u>

**INDEPENDENT REVIEW**

An Independent review of these financial statements has taken place. The associated report can be made available on request.



**Voluntary Action Swindon, 1 John Street, Swindon, SN1 1RT**

**Telephone: 07903 167 142**

**Registered Charity**