



FLINTSHIRE CITY of SANCTUARY:

Working with Synergy

<https://flintshire.cityofsanctuary.org/>

Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Charity No. 1186789

**Annual Report for the Period
1st January to
31st December 2022**

Chairman's Report December 2022

INTRODUCTION

During the year January - December 2022, Flintshire City of Sanctuary has continued to grow, learn, and work with the communities of Mold, Holywell and Flint. This work has served to support the education, employment and inclusion of the Syrian and Afghan (through the ARAP (Afghan Relocation & Assistance Programme scheme) families.

The Trustees have been astounded by the kindness and warmth of welcome shown by the communities within Flintshire to those fleeing Ukraine, but wish that it had been similarly extended to those fleeing Afghanistan.

They have also striven to make people aware of the *Homes for Ukraine* scheme, providing a realistic and objective view as to what becoming a sponsor entails, trying to help and support the expectations of potential hosts.

As a group, we have maintained and expanded our network of partners, to include the British Red Cross (BRC), Theatre Clwyd, Ethnic Youth Support Team (EYST), Wrexham Town of Sanctuary, Together Creating Communities (TCC), Flintshire County Council (FCC), Mold Business Network, Care and Repair, SHARE and Flintshire Local Voluntary Council (FLVC); engaging in more regular contact, through online meetings entitled '*Community Mobilisation Ukraine and ARAP*', hosted by an officer from FCC.

With the very worst of the COVID-19 Pandemic behind us, and cessation of lockdowns, FCOS have begun once more to engage with face-to-face teaching, and social and public events, with both our refugee families and the wider public in Flintshire. Continued use has been made of digital technology - a valuable tool for communicating with our members and partners, and indeed with the wider public.

ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

A. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DELIVERED BY OUR LANGUAGE FOR LIVING (L4L) PROGRAMME

Primary & Secondary Age Students

In this last year L4L has continued to work with those of school age, 8-13 years, albeit mostly online. The homework club has been well received, providing our students support with literacy, numeracy, science, and personal and social education (PSE) topics. The members of L4L ensure that the support is targeted and specific to the ability of the students. The club has been attended weekly, during the school year, by both Syrian and Afghan children. It is pleasing to report that the secondary school students from Ukraine have benefited from the club too.

A virtual classroom training program, IXL, has been utilised to support and encourage the students to engage in independent learning, and thereby extend their literacy and numeracy skills outside of the classroom. The regular, individualised student reports, generated by the program, enable areas of weakness to be quickly identified, and allow the educators to correctly gauge the National Curriculum Levels for each of the students. This is pertinent to the individualised support and interventions provided within the homework club, as has been previously mentioned.

Adult Education

In May, in-person teaching began for the Afghan ladies. It was found that their abilities ranged from no previous formal education to that of a qualified teacher of English.

The teaching sessions have taken place at Ty Calon on Deeside, with FCOS working in close partnership with FCC's Adult Education Department. FCOS provides transport, when needed, utilising the services of JDA – a local mini-bus and bus hire company. Funding has been made possible through the receipt of a National Lottery grant, namely a People and Places grant, for which we are extremely thankful.

Youth Report

At the start of 2022, funding was again sourced to enable a youth project to be set up. This was successfully achieved and commences with the assistance of a qualified Youth worker, Liz Litherland (trustee) and some additional volunteers/supporters. FCOS received monies from the Winter of Well-being Funds, through FCC, provided in turn to them by the Welsh Government.

The youth project began mainly with young Syrian people, living in Deeside. The young people were consulted about the project via online meetings - self-advocacy and student voice, featuring strongly, and key to informing future planning, with regards to activities etc.

Their wishes and input resulted in a range of activities:

- Football at Wepre Park,
- Trips to the cinema
- Swimming and other water sports activity
- Visiting the indoor climbing wall,
- Chester Zoo (families included)
- Theatre club, with Theatre Clwyd.

In March the Afghan families arrived, and were welcomed to a Youth event, held at Deeside Inflatables Park, to include pizza and ice cream!

Due to the funding deadline being extended, a further three opportunities for large events at Deeside Sports Centre and the Jade Jones Pavilion became possible.

In May, a trip to the Urdd Eisteddfod in Denbigh was organised, to allow the refugees to have a greater insight and appreciation of the Welsh language and culture, the

place of their new home. An additional trip, to a dance performance at Theatre Clwyd, was also made.

Activities for the summer have included a kite flying event, a cinema trip, a walk up Moel Famau, and even a campfire for the homework club.

During Refugee Week in June, a party and arts event was organised and held at Caffi Isa; a wonderful celebration to mark the occasion of FCOS's 4th anniversary as a charity.

As always, we give our thanks to all who have supported and helped us to reach this point.

Schools of Sanctuary

Thanks to the tireless efforts and work of our trustee Liz Litherland, Flintshire can now boast an active and growing number of schools applying for School of Sanctuary status, the award body being the national body of City of Sanctuary.

Many of the schools involved are now ready to undergo the audit process – proof of commitment to the criteria, through an evidence-based assessment, must be met by a school to gain the status, and be recognised as School of Sanctuary. The award has a duration of three years, but activities need to be sustained by the school, staff, and students to allow for further re-application and renewal of the status. The process is ongoing and continuous; this has importance as Flintshire is to become a 'dispersal area' for refugees, many of whom will be of school age.

A working group of eight primary schools and two secondary schools has been formed. More schools will be starting the process towards accreditation in September 2022, the start of the new academic year.

FCOS have delivered assemblies to most of the schools within this group and will continue this vital work once again in September.

The trustees offer their thanks to the Education Officer for the Diocese of St Asaph for providing support and assistance in contacting and engaging headteachers on our behalf.

B. WIDER FCOS ACTIVITIES FCOS TO EDUCATE THE GENERAL PUBLIC, PROVIDE RECREATION AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES, PROMOTE EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY, AND PREVENT AND RELIEVE POVERTY

Befriending

FCOS has a proven interest in, concern and enthusiasm for all matters relating to refugees and asylum seekers. Befriending refugees and asylum seekers is central to our work. The Trustees recognise the value of a kind, non-judgemental, sensible friend, a listening ear, someone who can provide practical support to those finding themselves in a strange new place, with its different culture and laws, and the very

real impact it can bring to bear upon those trying to successfully make a new life in Wales.


As Trustees we understand the intrinsic safeguarding responsibilities involved and we arranged and attended safeguarding training from a respected academic and trainer in June. In parallel, the external trainer reviewed our existing Safeguarding Policy and highlighted areas for improvement and updating. This was subsequently addressed.

When appropriate, current enhanced DBS certificates are obtained for our Trustees, supporters and educators. Where appropriate, FCOS has provided guidance to befrienders to complete application forms, communicated with authorities on their behalf, provided material support when appropriate, and signposted them to services of value.

FCOS undertakes many befriending activities. See below for key 2022 activities:

Date	Activity
January '22	Flintshire had the arrival of its first Afghan families. Contacts made.
February '22	A social event at Caffi Isa, Mynydd Isa enabled a larger number of Afghan families to meet up. L4L started up English lessons for the Afghan women.
May '22	A day at the Urdd Eisteddfod in Denbigh, was jointly arranged between FCOS, N.E.Wales Community and Menter Iaith.  A free craft session at Abakhan Mill was attended by one of our Syrian ladies.

	<p>Eid food parcels were gifted to 11 Afghan families living within the County.</p> <p>As part of the Mold Area Hub, FCOS helped to welcome Ukrainian refugees and their hosts, at a lunch event.</p>
June '22	<p>Refugee Week was celebrated at Caffi Isa, with food sharing, singing and games. Members of the Syrian, Afghan and Ukrainian communities all attended.</p>
July '22	<p>Croeso (Welcome) Picnic: FCOS supporters from Holywell in partnership with Holywell Transition Group and Town Council organised an afternoon of music, dancing and family entertainment with a shared picnic in Greenfield Valley.</p> <p>The event, held in glorious sunshine in the Greenfield Valley Community Gardens, was attended by families from the Afghan, Syrian and Ukrainian communities. Transport was provided to enable refugees living in an hotel to attend.</p> 

	<p>The second Mold Hub meeting had an interesting, conducted tour around the town, showcasing the delights Mold has to offer. The tour was followed by lunch.</p> <p>Resettled families attended Mold Town Carnival, thanks to transport costs being sponsored by Mold Town Council.</p>
Sept '22	<p>FCOS supported Together with Refugees' campaign to 'Fill the skies with hope' on 23rd with Trustees and supporters joining some of the Syrian young people to fly kites, have fun and have a coffee together.</p> 

C. TO EDUCATE THE GENERAL PUBLIC ON MATTERS RELATING TO IMMIGRATION AND THOSE SEEKING ASYLUM

The three key events in 2022 that enabled FCOS to communicate with members of the wider community in Flintshire and North Wales were:

1. 31st May Urdd Eisteddfod Trip

This event was of particular note as approximately 160 refugees and asylum seekers from across N.E. Wales (65 from Flintshire) were welcomed by the Eisteddfod organisers to the Maes in Denbigh in Welsh, Arabic, Ukrainian and Dari. Some of the children and young people then performed (ad hoc!) on stage songs from their homelands. Bringing people together promotes understanding and communication.

Diolch yn fawr/our thanks to Gwen Smith and her colleagues from Menter Iaith Fflint & Wrecsam for arranging the formal welcome and translations.

2. Croeso (Welcome) Picnic, Greenfield Valley

With singing, dancing, entertainment and sharing food, this event brought

together people from different backgrounds and cultures in a location with great history and significance. The event attracted interest from passers-by, allowing us to share with others how we can all make Flintshire a place of welcome and safety.

3. Working in Partnership Consultation Meeting, Flint, 9th December.



Flintshire City of Sanctuary Update & Consultation

RiverDee Centre, Flint
9th December, 2022

Recognising that FCOS can achieve more by working in more structured partnership with the many organisations, authorities and charities involved with refugees and asylum seekers we held this session enabled to share information, allow cross-talking and identify key areas for working better together on the priority areas identified.

Representatives of the Syrian and Afghan resettled communities, members, supporters and volunteers from Flintshire and Denbighshire CoS groups, L4L teachers, representatives from local government, British Red Cross, TCC and other national and local charities, participated in four discussion groups :

- Befriending & Emergency Support
- Working in Partnership
- Youth Activity & Integration
- Community education, events & fundraising

Their discussions and feed-back allowed common themes and priority action areas to be defined.

Other community education activities

- January 2022: Statement on Nationality & Borders Bill:
FCOS prepared a statement on the UK government's proposed 'anti-immigration' legislation which was sent to every town and district council within Flintshire County Council to inform them of the realities of the proposed Bill and the Welsh Government's opposition.
- Letters and press releases to local media.

- School assemblies – see above
- Participation in and speaking about sanctuary seekers at discussions and events held by partner organisations such as TCC, FCC, Community Cohesion, FLVC, etc.

D. TO PREVENT & RELIEVE POVERTY

FCOS activities to deliver this objective in 2022 were:

- L4L's educational activities for adults to improve English language skills – spoken and written. See also above.
- Befriending support to assist with job applications and learning to drive. For example, being the licensed supervising driver alongside the learner, and sign pointing or introductions to relevant employment opportunities.
- Participation in TCC's Cost of Living summit in September 2022, held in Plas Madoc. FCOS asked members of the Syrian, Ukrainian and Afghan communities in Flintshire to complete TCC's brief survey on impacts of the cost-of-living crisis on them and their families. This ensured that the concerns of refugees and asylum seekers' were represented in the information presented to decision makers (local, national and UK representatives present). A FCOS Trustee continues to be an active member of TCC's cost of living strategy group.
- Emergency assistance as needed, e.g. repair of or sourcing a lap top for remote learning.
- Gifts for the newly arrived Afghan families to celebrate their first Eid in Flintshire. See photograph of the gift bags ready to deliver to families' homes.



E. TO PROVIDE RECREATION FACILITIES AND PROMOTE EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

Many of FCOS activities focus on enabling better integration of refugees and asylum seekers into the wider Flintshire community through social, cultural and sporting opportunities, such as those described above in the Youth programme and befriending, often enabled by support from or working with our partner groups. The Croeso Picnic held in July was an example of an integrated, family-based event supported by the FCOS and FCC Youth programme and hosted by our partner organisations. Adults and children with different experiences of seeking sanctuary in Wales came together with a diverse group of longer term residents as members of the North Wales community to join in dancing, music and entertainments.



One of the action areas identified in the Consultation meeting in December was to work with our partners in Youth Cymru, EYST and Groundwork to build more integrated activity programmes for 2023 and beyond.

Our outreach to schools in assemblies focuses on integration, equality and diversity. An important aspect of the homework club is that the children share instances of racism and other concerns they experience in schools. L4L leads have sign-posted the issues raised to schools and/or FCC.

We are aware, however, that due to the geography of Flintshire, those with experience of seeking sanctuary are spread widely across small towns and villages and, other than the Ukrainians who greatly outnumber other groups, are

largely invisible. Women with young children are especially disadvantaged due to the limited public transport facilities.

Liz Litherland

Acting Chair of FCoS Board of Trustees

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From: 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022

Charity name: Flintshire City of Sanctuary, Working with Synergy

Charity registration number: 1186789

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	<p>(I) To advance the education of the public in general, especially in Flintshire, about the issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum.</p> <p>(II) 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.</p> <p>(III) The promotion of equality and diversity for the public benefit by promoting activities to foster understanding and engagement between people from diverse backgrounds.</p> <p>(IV) The prevention and relief of poverty amongst those granted refugee status and those seeking asylum in Flintshire.</p>
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	See Chair's Report above.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The Trustees of FCoS have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission of England and Wales on public benefit in their administration of the charity.

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	See Chair's Report above.

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	<p>This is the third year of operations of the charity.</p> <p>With COVID restrictions easing in 2022, the charity mainly reverted to face-to-face activities in the year, as detailed in the Chair's Report above. This led to an increase in expenditure of about £11,400, with the bulk of this arising from the youth activities programme launched in 2022.</p> <p>At the year-end cash-in-bank was down by about £2,100, from an opening balance on 1st January 2022 of £13,811.</p> <p><i>Mark Trengove</i> FCoS Financial Secretary</p>
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	The charity does not hold reserves.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	See above
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	The income of the charity is too small to justify the holding of reserves. When further income is needed, it is obtained by funding applications made to government and/or charitable bodies.
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	Not applicable.
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	Not applicable.

Additional information

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	In the year, 99.7% of FCoS's funding came from grants from government and charitable organisations. Only 0.3% came from small donations from individuals.
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	<p>The principal risks are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inability to source continuing funding of its operations due to

		<p>budgetary restrictions in government and charitable organisations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An incident creating major reputational damage to the good name of the charity.
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CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name FLINTSHIRE CITY of SANCTUARY	No. 1186789
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Receipts and payments accounts

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For the period from	Period start date 01/01/2022	to	Period end date 31/12/2022
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Restricted grants	-	13,660	-	13,660	5,000
General grants and donations	40	-	-	40	5,161
Events sales	-	-	-	-	178
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total(Gross income for AR)	40	13,660	-	13,700	10,339

A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	40	13,660	-	13,700	10,339

A3 Payments

Tuition fees	-	2,818	-	2,818	2,265
Project expenses					348
Activities fees	-	1,370		1,370	
Administrative fees	-	1,350	-	1,350	
Training	410	-	-	410	
Transport		3,908	-	3,908	
Venue costs		3,966	-	3,966	
Events costs		-	-	-	126
Motoring allowances	18	453	-	471	153
IT expenses	104	-	-	104	343
Charitable grants & donations	280	185	-	465	98
Room rentals		-	-	-	
Licenses		405	-	405	
Teaching books & stationary		185	-	185	233

Insurance	99	-	-	99	99
Miscellaneous expenses	29	139	-	168	675
Sub total	940	14,779	-	15,719	4,340
A4 Asset and investment purchases					
IT		-	-	-	210
Car child seats	102	-	-	102	
Sub total	102	-	-	102	210
Total payments	1,042	14,779	-	15,821	4,550
Net of receipts/(payments)	-	-	-	-	-
	1,002	1,119	-	2,121	5,789
A5 Transfers between funds			-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	5,865	7,946		13,811	8,022
Cash funds this year end	4,863	6,827	-	11,690	13,811

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank current account	4,863	6,827	-

	-	-	-
	-	-	-
Total cash funds	4,863	6,827	-
(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

Unrestricted funds

Restricted funds

Endowment funds

to nearest £

to nearest £

to nearest £

B2 Other monetary assets

Details			
None	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

B3 Investment assets

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
None	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

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

Teaching equipment	Restricted	105	-
Laptop computer	Unrestricted	210	-
Car child seats	Unrestricted	102	-
		-	-

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
None		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
<i>Liz Litherland</i>	DOROTHY ELIZABETH LITHERLAND	11/10/2023
<i>Tricia Vine</i>	PATRICIA DOROTHY VINE	13/10/2023

Notes to the Statutory Accounts

Note 1: a total of £1817 was paid to the following Trustees in their independent capacity as self-employed teachers in delivering the charity's services:

E. Litherland, A. Jones and P. Vine.

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	CIO Foundation Structure Governing Instrument
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more Trustees	Para 1.25	Trustees may be recruited to the Board by the Trustees, and no other person. In selecting individuals for appointment, the Trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the charity.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of Trustees	Para 1.51	A training programme for new and continuing Trustees has commenced.
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	See Chair's Report
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	See Note 1 in the financial accounts above. The payment rates for Trustees are the same as those for TEFL teachers who are not Trustees of the charity.

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Flintshire City of Sanctuary: working with Synergy
Other name the charity uses	FCoS
Registered charity number	1186789
Charity's principal address	None.

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole period	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	T. Carberry	Chair	All the year	None
2	D.E. Litherland	Deputy Chair	All the year	None
3	P.D. Vine	Treasurer	All the year	None
4	M. Greaney	Secretary	All the year	None
5	K. Jewell		01/01/22 – 01/04/2022	None
6	A. Jones		01/2022 – 06/10/2022	None
7	M Trengove	Financial Secretary	All the year	None

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		
None		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	
None		

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	None
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	None
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	None

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details Not applicable

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	<i>D. E. Litherland</i>	<i>P.D Vine</i>
Full name(s)	Dorothy Elizabeth Litherland	Patricia Dorothy Vine
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Acting Chair	Treasurer
Date	13 th October 2022	