

Can City of Sanctuary Local Authority Strategies be Evaluated?

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Public involvement partners

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Practice Partners

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<https://cityofsanctuary.org/>

Who are we?

- We are part of the NIHR School for Public Health Research (SPHR).
- Public Health Research Centres across England.
- Focus on 'upstream' determinants of health: i.e. the causes of the causes – including social services, interventions and environments outside the health sector.
- Also emphasis on co-production and local government.



Why are we researching City of Sanctuary local authority strategies?

We were told it would be useful to **go through all the existing strategies** and map out what different local authorities are doing.

And we want to develop some **theories of change** around how different activities might affect **health and health equity**.

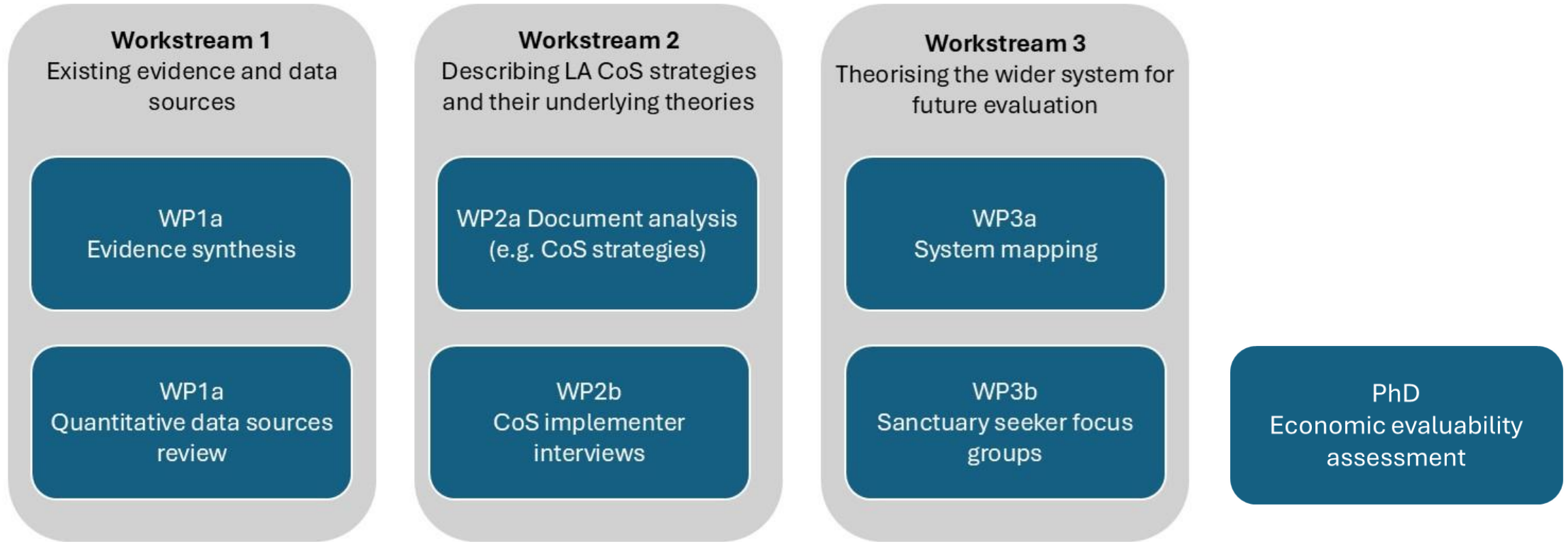
We also want to see whether or not CoS LA strategies can be **evaluated from a public health perspective?**

How do you work out if something is evaluable?

Lots of different approaches – but we want to know the following...

1. Has this been **evaluated before**?
2. Is there a **common function or purpose** that unites all the different things people do?
3. Can we **develop plausible hypotheses** of how they might impact people? (including **equity** impacts)
4. Can we **measure** those impacts? (i.e. **Data? Comparing what?**)
5. **Who** should we focus on: People seeking sanctuary? The wider community? Service providers?
6. Will people **participate** in the research?
7. Will an evaluation be **useful** to people? What **decisions** can it inform?

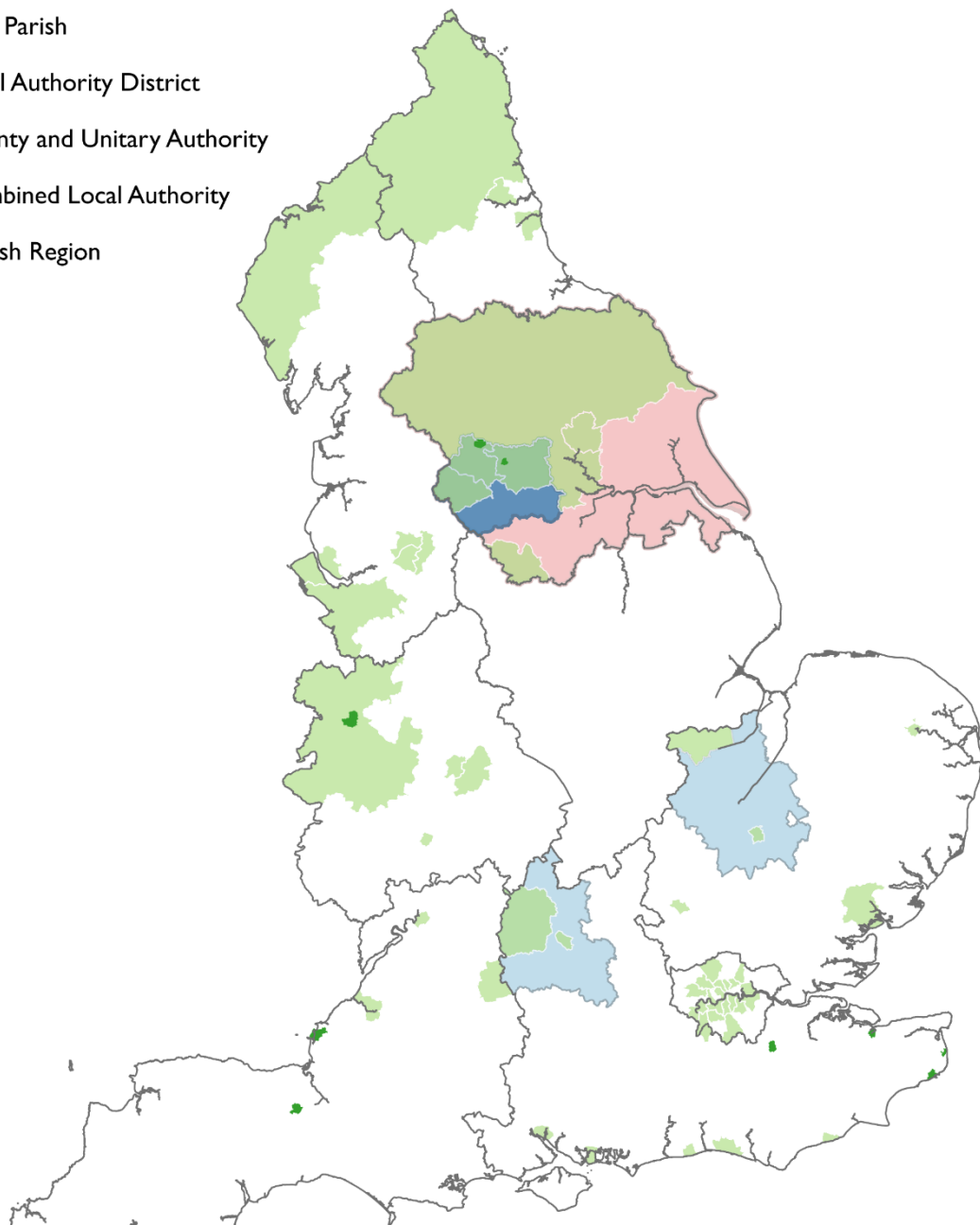
The project



Outputs

Rapid review; Pilot impact analysis; Theory of Change for health and social impacts; Description of wider system; Publix outputs; Evaluation proposal.

- 1. Civil Parish
- 2. Local Authority District
- 3. County and Unitary Authority
- 4. Combined Local Authority
- 5. English Region



1. Civil Parish

DEAL CP
DOVER CP
FAVERSHAM CP
HORSFORTH CP
ILKLEY CP
SEVENOAKS CP
SHREWSBURY CP
TAUNTON CP
WESTON-SUPER-MARE CP

2. Local Authority District

BARNET
BIRMINGHAM
BRADFORD
BRENT
BRIGHTON AND HOVE
BRISTOL, CITY OF
CALDERDALE
CAMBRIDGE
CAMDEN
CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER
COLCHESTER
CROYDON
CUMBERLAND
EALING
EPSOM AND EWELL
GLOUCESTER
GREENWICH
HACKNEY
HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM
HASTINGS
ISLINGTON
KINGSTON UPON THAMES
LAMBETH
LEEDS
LEWISHAM
LIVERPOOL
LUTON

MANCHESTER
MERTON
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE
NEWHAM
NORTH YORKSHIRE
NORTHUMBERLAND
NORWICH
OXFORD
PETERBOROUGH
PORTSMOUTH
RICHMOND UPON THAMES
SALFORD
SANDWELL
SHEFFIELD
SHROPSHIRE
SOUTHAMPTON
SOUTHWARK
SUNDERLAND
SWINDON
TRAFFORD
WALTHAM FOREST
WANDSWORTH
WEST OXFORDSHIRE
WESTMINSTER
WIRRAL
WORCESTER
WORTHING
YORK

3. County and Unitary Authority

CAMBRIDGESHIRE
OXFORDSHIRE

4. Combined Local Authority

WEST YORKSHIRE

5. English Region

YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER

Public and Practice partnerships and links

We are working with CoS UK, public partners and would like to make links with local authorities and voluntary services.

In particular we want to identify 6 sites.

- 4 with CoS LA strategies
- 2 who have not shown an interest in such strategies.
- Invite implementer stakeholders to workshops
- Hold a focus group in each of the 6 sites, each comprising 4 people seeking sanctuary



Timelines

May to Dec 2025

Ethics

Review of strategies

Implementer interviews.

Jan to June 2026

Review

Scoping data sources

Workshops and focus groups



Things to discuss today

We'd love to hear from you if you are involved in a local strategy – we are looking to interview strategy implementers, and pick our 6 sites for sanctuary seeker focus groups.

We'd love to hear what you think of our early findings and how we might interpret them and share them more widely?

Any other thoughts you have about the research, (e.g. any views on what outcomes or populations we could focus on?)

CoS LA Strategy Coding

Activity Group	Type of Activity	Learn/Embed/Share
Local Authority 6 codes	E.G Involving sanctuary seekers in LA, Embedding CoS in LA's everyday work, and a COS LA Webpage	LEARN, EMBED, and SHARE
Sanctuary Seeker 9 codes	E.G Housing, Health, and Employment	EMBED
Children 8 codes	E.G Safeguarding, Schools, and Leisure/play	EMBED
Wider Community 2 codes	E.G Information promoting CoS to the wider community and activities bringing people together	LEARN and SHARE
(Sub) National 3 codes	E.G Engagement with CoS network and influencing national policy and discourse	SHARE

Themes of CoS LA Strategies Document Analysis

- **Institutional embedding of City of Sanctuary principles** (18 contributing locations)
- **Community cohesion, culture, and civic participation** (15 contributing locations)
- **Housing and material stability** (15 contributing locations)
- **Health, wellbeing, and food security** (14 contributing locations)

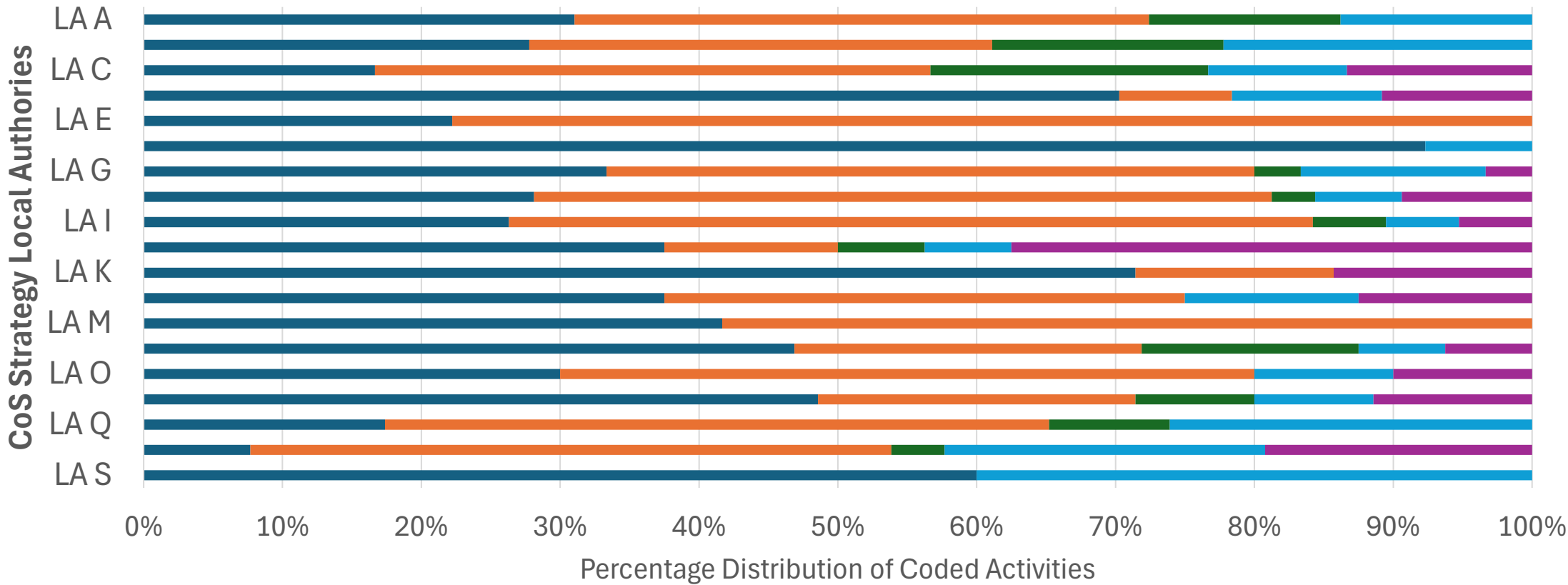


Themes of CoS LA Strategies Document Analysis

- **Education, skills, and empowerment** (14 contributing locations)
- **Employment, enterprise, and volunteering** (12 contributing locations)
- **Safety, protection, and safeguarding** (11 contributing locations)



Distribution of Coded Activities



CoS LA Network Questions

1. What should we think of the strategies?
 - What activities do you do that are not captured by your strategies?
2. What should we put in our report?
 - Which indicators best capture the work you do?

Thankyou

Feel free to contact us: matt.egan@lshtm.ac.uk
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The views expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the NIHR or the Department of Health and Social Care.

