

# Can City of Sanctuary Local Authority Strategies be Evaluated?

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### Public involvement partners

Mina Mahmodi and Tina Deinekhovska

### Practice Partners

Sian Summers-Rees, Maggie Filipova-Rivers, City of Sanctuary UK



<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

## Workstream 1

Existing evidence and data sources

WP1a  
Evidence synthesis

WP1a  
Quantitative data sources review

## Workstream 2

Describing LA CoS strategies and their underlying theories

WP2a Document analysis  
(e.g. CoS strategies)

WP2b  
CoS implementer interviews

## Workstream 3

Theorising the wider system for future evaluation

WP3a  
System mapping

WP3b  
Sanctuary seeker focus groups

PhD  
Economic evaluability assessment

## Outputs

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

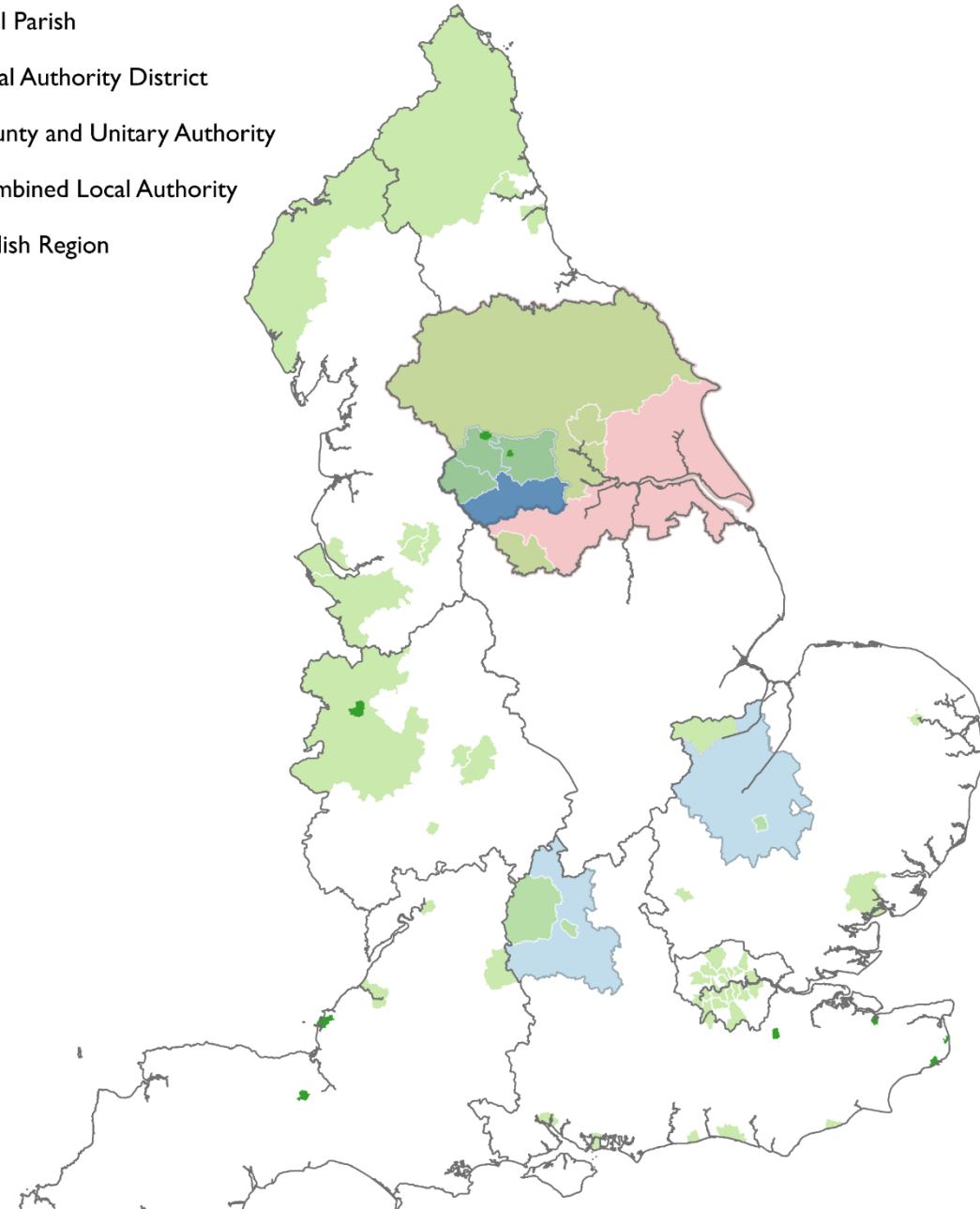
1. Civil Parish

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
<b>Local Authority</b> <b>6 codes</b>	E.G Involving sanctuary seekers in LA, Embedding CoS in LA's everyday work, and a COS LA Webpage	LEARN, EMBED, and SHARE
<b>Sanctuary Seeker</b> <b>9 codes</b>	E.G Housing, Health, and Employment	EMBED
<b>Children</b> <b>8 codes</b>	E.G Safeguarding, Schools, and Leisure/play	EMBED
<b>Wider Community</b> <b>2 codes</b>	E.G Information promoting CoS to the wider community and activities bringing people together	LEARN and SHARE
<b>(Sub) National</b> <b>3 codes</b>	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)

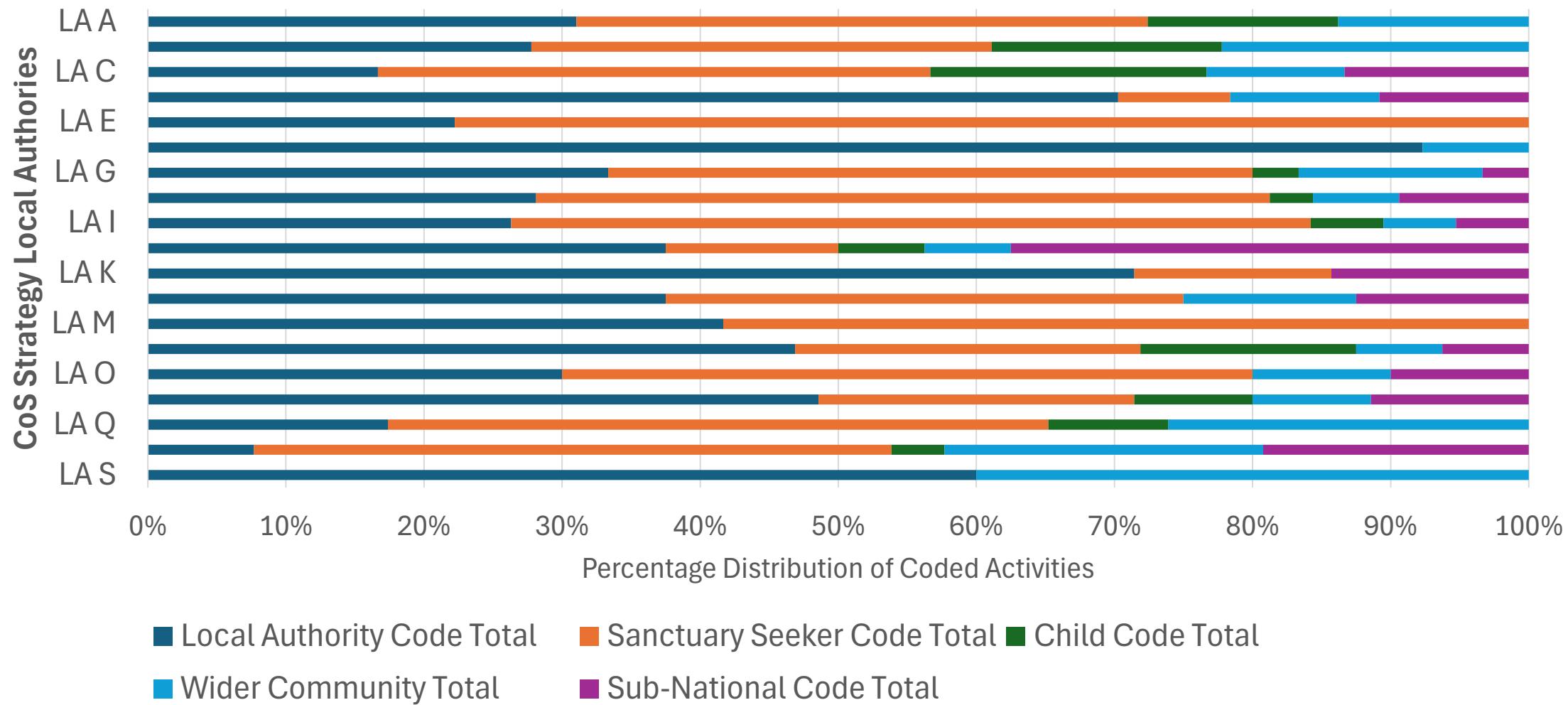


# Themes of CoS LA Strategies Document Analysis

- **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](mailto:matt.egan@lshtm.ac.uk)  
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