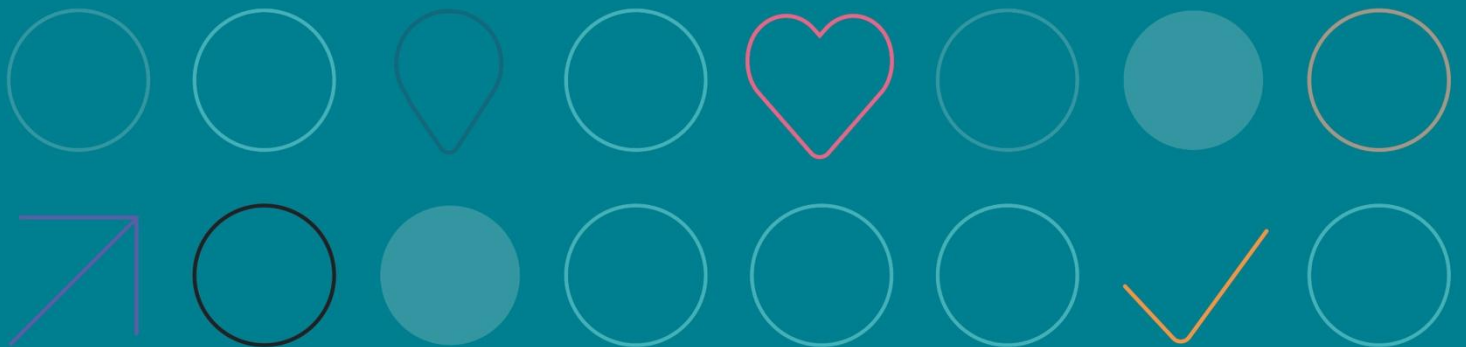


Cheshire West & Chester Council

Cheshire West & Chester Borough of Sanctuary Strategy for the Council and its partners

2024 – 2027



This strategy document forms the basis for the work of the Council and its key partners in Cheshire West & Chester. It will inform our engagement with those who are seeking to integrate into the community, and links to the wider collective work, providing support and sanctuary for those in need across the borough. The document also outlines the partnership roles in this environment.

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This strategy document will be reviewed every three years in line with the Council’s application to become a Council of Sanctuary. The attached action plan will be reviewed annually.

Statement from Leader of the council

In October 2021, a motion was passed at full Council to join the City of Sanctuary network and to start the process of becoming a Borough of Sanctuary, continuing to work with other places of Sanctuary and partners, especially voluntary, community and faith organisations, to make Cheshire West and Chester a welcoming place for those fleeing war, conflict and persecution.

As part of the Council's Corporate Strategy our commitment is to be an open and welcoming Borough, welcoming those fleeing violence and persecution in their own countries and protecting the rights of all migrants, asylum seekers and refugees.

Our aim is to encourage individuals and organisations across our borough to join us in embracing the principles of the City of Sanctuary movement. The Council is also making changes across the entire organisation to create a supportive environment for those seeking sanctuary, who access our services. We also work with statutory partners and the voluntary, charity and faith organisations to identify national policy issues where we can work collectively to encourage and enable change.

This strategy sets out the how the Council and our partners' will work together to make Cheshire West a Borough of Sanctuary and provides a policy framework for the wide variety of work the Council and its partners undertake. It provides a common understanding of the meaning of sanctuary and a framework for its delivery.

I am very pleased to recommend this strategy on behalf of the Council and our partners as the expression of our collective determination to make Cheshire West and Chester a welcoming place for those seeking sanctuary

Cllr Gittins
Leader of Cheshire West and Chester Council

Statement from Cheshire West Voluntary Action

At Cheshire West Voluntary Action (CWVA), we're delighted to support the Council's Borough of Sanctuary Strategy for 2024-27.

It's vital that all migrants, asylum seekers and refugees feel safe in Cheshire West and Chester and can access the support they need in the local community.

We support hundreds of organisations in the community sector, made up of charities, community groups and other not-for-profit organisations.

Many of these provide invaluable services for migrants, asylum seekers and refugees and are often the friendly faces that first support people as they arrive in the UK, building trust with those who have experienced significant trauma in their own countries.

The community sector will play a key role in the aim to achieve Borough of Sanctuary status, working alongside the Council and other partners on this important strategy.

Gary Cliffe
Chief Executive, Cheshire West Voluntary Action

Introduction

Migration to Cheshire is nothing new! The Northwest has always been a place of migration with people moving to and from other parts of the British Isles and other parts of the world as a result of conflict, colonialism and trade as well as in search of work, education opportunities or a better life.

After the Roman conquest of Britain, there were new avenues for Roman migration. Migration is a normal part of human existence that has shaped the social landscape of our region for centuries. This is no exception in Cheshire. Migration into Cheshire West and Chester has included refugees, asylum seekers and other migrants from around the world.

We have a more recent history of welcome and compassion for sanctuary seekers from many places including Kosovans in 1999. In 2016 we welcomed Syrians into the borough who had been forced to flee their homes due to the ongoing conflict in the region.

In 2021, the Council worked with partners to provide safety and shelter for people fleeing Afghanistan including those who worked as interpreters or in other support roles for UK troops. Also in 2021, the launch of the national Hong Kong scheme saw large numbers making Cheshire their home. In 2022 Russia invaded Ukraine and this has led to Cheshire welcoming a large number of Ukrainian guests.

There are a multitude of reasons why people migrate, the life experiences of individual people who have migrated and the connections between our Borough and the wider world is so important and hopefully enriches all that call the Borough “home”.

The City of Sanctuary network is a national charity which promotes a culture of welcome and hospitality for those seeking sanctuary in the United Kingdom. They offer an accreditation to a local authority or Council which can demonstrate that it has met the necessary criteria. As there is no official recognition for a “Borough of Sanctuary”, in October 2024 Cheshire West & Chester became accredited as a “Council of Sanctuary”. This strategy document outlines how we will work with other Places of Sanctuary and key partners within our Borough to make it a welcoming community.

As a “Council of Sanctuary” we will join and participate in the City of Sanctuary Local Authority Network. The aims of this network are:

- To support the development of a network of local authorities that are working towards the City of Sanctuary vision
- To promote the embedding of a culture and practice of welcome in local authorities to support the City of Sanctuary.

This strategy is to be viewed alongside other standing strategies and policies for Cheshire West and Chester Council, such as: -

Home | CWC Borough Plan –The following statement has been included in the Borough Plan: -

Providing sanctuary to those in need: We will show care and compassion, whilst continuing to support people fleeing violence and persecution in their own countries, building on our commitment to become a Council of Sanctuary and working with other places of sanctuary so that Cheshire West and Chester is a welcoming place.

Cheshire West and Chester Place Plan 2019-2026

Inclusive Economy Strategy and Action Plan

Equality and Diversity Policy

Customer Services Plan

Early Years Plan and Children's and Young People Plan

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Contract

Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) Strategy and Procedures

Hate Crime Strategy

Housing Strategy

Rough Sleeping & Homelessness Strategy

Fairer Future Strategy 2022-32

All Together Fairer Strategy 2024-2029

And other Partner key documents – Partners will need to share the names of their appropriate strategies here, below are examples:

CWVA Local Voices Framework

JCP

CHAWREC

Constitution maybe?

Anything else? NHS? Police - Race Equality Plan?

Borough of Sanctuary:

In our desire to make Cheshire West and Chester a place of Sanctuary the Council and its partners will work to the following principles: -

Our Vision - The Council and its partners aim to make Cheshire West and Chester a welcoming place for those fleeing war, conflict and persecution.

Our Values – this vision is underpinned by five key values as outlined below: -

Inclusiveness	We will work to ensure that people from all backgrounds are not excluded or marginalised.
Openness	We are committed to a culture of working collaboratively within the network and in partnership with others.
Participation	We will ensure that those seeking sanctuary will have their voices heard, are involved in decision making processes and are supported to become leaders within the sanctuary network.
Inspiring	We will work with partners to inspire a culture of welcome and positivity. We work collectively to inspire those seeking sanctuary to achieve the best for them and their families.
Integrity	We will work with partners to ensure a high quality of service provision by sharing knowledge, expertise and best practice.

How the partnership works to support the voluntary, community and faith sector:

Cheshire West and Chester Council has offered funding opportunities for voluntary, community and faith organisations to apply for one or two year grants which will be used to fund activities designed to support refugees, asylum seekers and other vulnerable migrants living in Cheshire West and Chester. These funds are part of the commitment that the Council has made for our Borough to become a place of Sanctuary for those fleeing war, conflict and persecution.

Organisations will need to demonstrate that they can help achieve the agreed aims, objectives and outcomes of the programme by focusing on the following themes: -

Thematic Area 1 : Needs of People Seeking Asylum

People seeking asylum are supported to understand the asylum system, their rights and entitlements throughout the process and are able to make informed decisions and engage with services.

Advice and advocacy services supporting asylum seekers are well coordinated, accessible to asylum seekers and responsive to their needs and support their integration into Cheshire West's communities.

Thematic Area 2 : Language

Refugees, people seeking asylum and vulnerable migrants have the opportunity to maintain their language and culture and share with their local communities.

Refugees, people seeking asylum and vulnerable migrants have the opportunity to achieve the language and language qualifications they need to progress to further learning or employment.

Those working with refugees, people seeking asylum and vulnerable migrants improve their understanding of the language barriers and how to overcome them

Thematic Area 3 : Health and Wellbeing

Refugees, people seeking asylum and vulnerable migrants are able to look after and improve their own health and well-being.

Thematic Area 4 : Communities Culture and Social Connections

Communities are aware of the needs of refugees, people seeking asylum and vulnerable migrant communities and actively seek to involve them in community life.

Social isolation experienced by refugees, people seeking asylum and vulnerable migrants is reduced as they integrate and become active in their local communities.

Refugees, people seeking asylum and vulnerable migrants engage in cultural, heritage, leisure and sport activities and celebrate their own culture, talents and contributions.

Local community groups and refugees, people seeking asylum and vulnerable migrant led organisations play an active role in supporting integration.

Principles:

The Council and its Partners will work to the following principles:

Sanctuary Principles

Offer a place of welcome to everyone

We will work towards ensuring a full commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion, as well as protecting the rights and welfare of all of our residents.

Create opportunities for meaningful integration

We will support integration activities between partners, local residents and new arrivals, raising awareness of the needs of those seeking sanctuary and working towards a more cohesive community.

Recognise and encourage partnership working and network development across the geographical area

We will work across the partnership and with communities to improve Cheshire West and Chester for everyone who lives and works here.

Work collaboratively with partners and people of lived experience to identify barriers

We will work collectively on identified areas that will improve the quality of life for those seeking sanctuary, and those already settled within Cheshire West.

Celebrate and promote the contribution of people seeking sanctuary

We will proudly recognise and celebrate the diversity that strengthens our Borough and continue to welcome those seeking sanctuary.

Support people seeking sanctuary to become involved in the co-design and co-production of services

We will ensure that partners and services use the established Local Voices Framework for those seeking sanctuary, so their voice is heard.

Delivery of 'Borough of Sanctuary'

We will continue to work with key partners which include voluntary, community and faith organisations to deliver successful outcomes for those seeking sanctuary.

In working towards a Borough of Sanctuary we will adopt the City of Sanctuary process of Learn, Embed and Share and the following criteria:

'Learn' Criteria:

- Provide awareness raising opportunities and facilitate opportunities for discussion around the theme of welcome and sanctuary.
- Provide evidence that refugee/asylum/migration awareness raising is included into everyday business of the local authority e.g. staff induction/training.
- Commitment to supporting the voices of people seeking sanctuary to be heard.

'Embed' Criteria:

- Demonstrate the concept of welcome and inclusion at all levels of the Council.
- Commitment to supporting initiatives that embed welcome and foster solidarity between receiving communities and people seeking sanctuary e.g. participation in Refugee Week, as well as promoting sanctuary principles among local statutory and voluntary sector partners.

'Share' Criteria:

- A public commitment to the City of Sanctuary vision of welcome
- Highlight our work in support of welcome and inclusion by making it visible on our website and noticeboards
- Commitment to on-going engagement with the City of Sanctuary Local Authority Network.
- Work with the Network to identify national policy issues in order to make collective representations to government to encourage and enable change

Governance & Accountability

This strategy will be underpinned with an action plan that will be monitored by Cheshire West and Chester's Multi Agency Forum for Refugee and Asylum Seekers as well as the Cheshire West Sanctuary Seekers Support Network.

In collaboration with our partner organisations, we will continue to develop existing support for migrants, refugees and asylum seekers through participation in the national resettlement and dispersal schemes. This includes the sanctuary funding stream for voluntary, community and faith organisations

The Council and its partners recognise that community cohesion is an important ongoing issue which needs continual work to achieve success.

The vision, values and principles outlined in this strategy will strengthen community cohesion across the borough, bringing people together to build sustainable communities.

Communities which balance and integrate social, economic and environmental progress. Meeting current expectations and preparing for the future whilst continuing to respect the diversity of the place and people.

Appendix 1: Council Motion: Becoming a Place of Sanctuary

This Strategy has been built on the following council motion which was unanimously approved at the council meeting on 21st October 2021 to make Cheshire West and Chester a Borough of Sanctuary.

Notices of motion may be discussed informally, and members' views taken into account by the Director of Governance in determining what route the matter should take for further consideration and decision, following the meeting.

To consider and indicate whether there is support for the following Notice of Motion, proposed by Councillor Richard Beacham, and seconded by Councillor Paul Roberts.

"This council understands the important role it can play in welcoming people who are fleeing violence and persecution by offering them safety and sanctuary.

This Council notes that:

- Cheshire West and Chester Council celebrates diversity through its support for activities and events in the community, and through accreditations that recognise our organisation as welcoming of all people, regardless of their background.*
- The Council recognises the contribution that refugees, migrants and those seeking sanctuary have made to urban and rural areas in our Borough throughout recent history.*
- Through working with partners in the voluntary and charity sector, and other public sector organisations, we are committed to welcoming refugees and asylum seekers that have been placed in our Borough as part of government resettlement programmes.*
- The Council's support for Refugee Week 2021 provided an opportunity for the stories of refugees to be publicly shared and celebrated, including the contribution of refugees and migrants in Cheshire West and Chester.*

- *The work of Chester's 'City of Sanctuary' Group has been fundamental in bringing together local charities, residents, the Cathedral and commissioned services to progress the work of becoming a Borough of Sanctuary.*
- *The Council is committed to supporting refugee and migrant communities who have fled violence and persecution and been offered safety and sanctuary in our Borough, as part of this work it supports the initiative to make Cheshire West and Chester a recognised 'Borough of Sanctuary' as part of the 'City of Sanctuary' initiative.*

This informal meeting of Council supports:

- *Joining the 'Local Authority Network' of cities and towns which promote the inclusion and welfare of people who are fleeing violence and persecution in their own countries and become a recognised 'Borough of Sanctuary'*
- *Working with commissioned services, community groups and charities to help and support refugees, migrants and asylum seekers in Cheshire West and Chester, including by harnessing public support when necessary.*
- *Continuing to celebrate the contribution of refugee and migrant communities through annual events like Refugee Week.*
- *Including information of refugee and asylum seekers in our Equality & Diversity Training for new and existing staff.*
- *Challenging anti-refugee and anti-migrant attitudes wherever they are found.*
- *Reporting on progress for achieving the 'Borough of Sanctuary' status as part of the Council's annual reporting and monitoring.*
- *Writing to the Home Secretary to share information on the impact of the 'No Recourse to Public Funds' condition on people who contact our Council services, particularly where it blocks people from being able to participate in society for years while they wait for their status to be resolved."*

Appendix 2 – Terminology

Refugee:	<p>The definition of a refugee according to the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees is:</p> <p>“A person who owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it.”</p> <p>In the UK, a person becomes a refugee when government agrees that an individual who has applied for asylum meets the definition in the Refugee Convention they will ‘recognise’ that person as a refugee and issue them with refugee status documentation. Usually, refugees in the UK are given five years’ leave to remain as a refugee. They must then apply for further leave, although their status as a refugee is not limited to five years.</p> <p>[Source: Refugee Council website]</p>
Asylum seeker (person seeking asylum):	<p>A person who has left their country of origin and formally applied for asylum in another country but whose application has not yet been concluded. Wherever possible, we prefer to describe someone as a person seeking asylum as we feel that the term asylum seeker is dehumanising.</p> <p>[Source: Refugee Council website]</p>
Refused asylum seeker:	<p>A person whose asylum application has been unsuccessful and who has no other claim for protection awaiting a decision. Some refused asylum seekers voluntarily return home, others are forcibly returned. For some, it is not safe or practical to return until conditions in their country change.</p> <p>[Source: Refugee Council website]</p>
Migrant:	<p>A migrant is someone who has moved from one country to another, not for reasons of asylum or refuge. Often the move is for work, education or to be with family. People may also move to alleviate significant hardships that arise from natural disasters, famine or extreme poverty [Source: Refugee Council website]</p>
Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC):	<p>Children and young people who are seeking asylum in the UK but who have been separated from their parents or carers. While their claim is processed, they are cared for by a local authority.</p> <p>[Source: London Councils website]</p>
Resettlement:	<p>The transfer of refugees from an asylum country to another State, that has agreed to admit them and ultimately grant them permanent residence. UNHCR is mandated by its Statute and the UN General Assembly Resolutions to undertake resettlement as one of the three durable solutions. There were 20.7 million refugees of concern to UNHCR around the world at the end of 2020, but less than one per cent of refugees are resettled each year.</p> <p>[Source: UNHCR UK website]</p>

Appendix 3: Action Plan for Cheshire West and Chester becoming a 'Borough of Sanctuary' (last updated 10.09.2024)

The Council and its partners have an aspiration to make Cheshire West and Chester a Borough of Sanctuary. This aspiration was included in Cheshire West Labour's 2019 manifesto. This partnership action plan is based on the criteria given by the City of Sanctuary Charity and are those that have to be met in order to become an accredited place of sanctuary. The criteria are generally grouped under the headings of 'General', 'Learn', 'Embed', 'Share'. Further information is available on the City of Sanctuary website [2023 Sanctuary Awards Generic Min Criteria.docx \(cityofsanctuary.org\)](https://cityofsanctuary.org/2023-Sanctuary-Awards-Generic-Min-Criteria.docx)

The Council will have its own action plan which it will work to for reaccreditation of its "Council of Sanctuary" award in 2027. Some of its actions will be included in this partnership document

Criterion	Action	Action Lead	Progress
			Red = Action not completed
General Criteria			Amber = action in progress/part completed Green = action completed Blue = Action Completed and regularly updated
Commitment to working with the other Places of Sanctuary and other refugee networks	To engage with other Places of Sanctuary and networks to raise awareness of issues specific to those seeking sanctuary.		Achieved through participation in the following: - Multi agency forum Sanctuary Seekers Support Network Third sector focus "raising awareness programme"
Commit to working with partners to identify local issues so that a collective voice can be used to lobby for change.	Liaise with partners to identify both local and national policy issues and make collective representations to government to encourage and enable change		Commissioned Housing focused training from Vauxhall Law centre Embedding the Local Voices framework into Sanctuary projects Partners using existing regional and national networks to identify issues that may affect local communities
Produce a written strategy (either an independent strategy or as part of a broader strategy e.g. equality, migration etc) which is publicly available and sets out commitment for at least three years	Prepare a partnership strategy.		Draft strategy document for the wider partners is being prepared for stakeholder consultation. A commitment to ensure lived voice experience is part of the stakeholder engagement
Learn			
Partners working together provide awareness raising opportunities	Partners facilitate discussions around the theme of welcome		Sanctuary events held at the Theatre Porto and Holiday Inn, Ellesmere Port

and encourage discussion around the theme of welcome and sanctuary ..	<p>and sanctuary in their own organisations as well wider audiences as opportunities arise.</p> <p>Create safe spaces within the raising awareness sessions for people to ask nonjudgmental questions</p> <p>Partners to participate in conferences and events that facilitate open and transparent conversations</p>	<p>Our ways of working</p> <p>DWP networking</p> <p>Tina Rae – Children who have suffered Trauma</p> <p>A migration pathway is in place in Children’s Front door (i-art) ensuring that families receive the required level of support.</p> <p>Adult Social working Conference</p> <p>Refugee Week</p> <p>Third Sector networking events and awareness sessions</p> <p>RAS Team will take a proposal to the MAF for a dedicated task and finish Comms group.</p> <p>The CPD sessions for PCSO’s and Specials</p> <p>Project in development with University of Chester Law Department for their students to support the “Drop Ins”</p> <p>RAS team working with education colleagues to raise awareness within school settings</p>
Evidence of refugee/asylum/migration awareness raising is included into everyday business for partners e.g. staff induction/training.	<p>1] Include refugee/asylum/migration awareness in all partner organisations staff inductions.</p> <p>2] Include refugee/asylum/migration awareness in training for front line staff.</p>	<p>For the Council this has been implemented by the Equality & Diversity Team – contact is Angela Doe or Rob Jones.</p> <p>Update from Rob Jones 11/09/2024 - The in person Welcome Events for all new starters (part of the induction process), briefly cover Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migration. This is both through an interactive quiz about the profile of people in the borough, and later through the formal part of the presentation.</p> <p>RAS Team will look to source an external training provider with lived experience.</p> <p>Partners have developed a raising awareness workshop which is about to be shared with 3rd sector partners. Highlighting that it will be face to face sessions which can be delivered outside normal working hours.</p> <p>The council will look to develop an ilearn session for front line staff and elected members. They will support and encourage other partners to provide the similar training to their staff.</p> <p>Partners to commit to Information about people seeking sanctuary will be added to the new staff corporate inductions.</p>
Commitment to supporting the voices of people seeking sanctuary to be heard.	Provide platforms where refugees and people seeking asylum can relate their	<p>Refugee stories to be including during Refugee week activities.</p> <p>Local Voices Framework being embedded within those projects who have received sanctuary funding</p>



	<p>experience, particularly their experience in the UK.</p> <p>Great sensitivity is required as people's experiences may have been traumatic and some of their experiences may be very private and not for sharing. Hence the emphasis on experiences in the UK. However, some people may wish to share something of their journey.</p>		<p>Partners will commit to ensuring that the voices of those with lived experience are given the opportunity to be heard in an appropriate manner.</p>
Embed			
Partners should demonstrate how they have embedded the concept of welcome and inclusion at all levels of their organisations. This should show how they will continue to develop and sustain a culture of welcome beyond the award.	Evaluate this criterion regularly in department strategies, team plans, staff appraisals etc.		<p>The intention is to use the Multi Agency Forum and the third sector network as a way to support and encourage partners to embed best practice within their organisations.</p>
Commitment to supporting initiatives that embeds welcome and fosters solidarity between receiving communities and people seeking sanctuary	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Continue to work with government dispersal and resettlement schemes 2) Work with those organisations that have received sanctuary funding 3) Partners Support and participate in the annual Refugee Week events. 		<p>Continued engagement with (the Northwest Regional Strategic Migration Partnership (RSMP), Home Office, Serco and Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government</p> <p>Continued Sanctuary funding for Third sector partners with appropriate monitoring and evaluation frameworks</p> <p>Standard agenda item for CSSSF, MAF and CW&C In-House Sanctuary Group.</p>
Share			
A public commitment to the Borough of Sanctuary vision of welcome	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1] Promote and support the establishment of other City of Sanctuary groups and Places of Sanctuary in CW&C. 2] Promote and support the Schools of Sanctuary programme. 		<p>Cheshire West & Chester Libraries Services have been awarded 'Libraries of Sanctuary'</p> <p>Partners to take every opportunity to promote Schools of Sanctuary programme including training sessions, conferences etc.</p> <p>Partners to engage with the Chester City of Sanctuary project which encourages organisations to become involved and delivery activities</p>

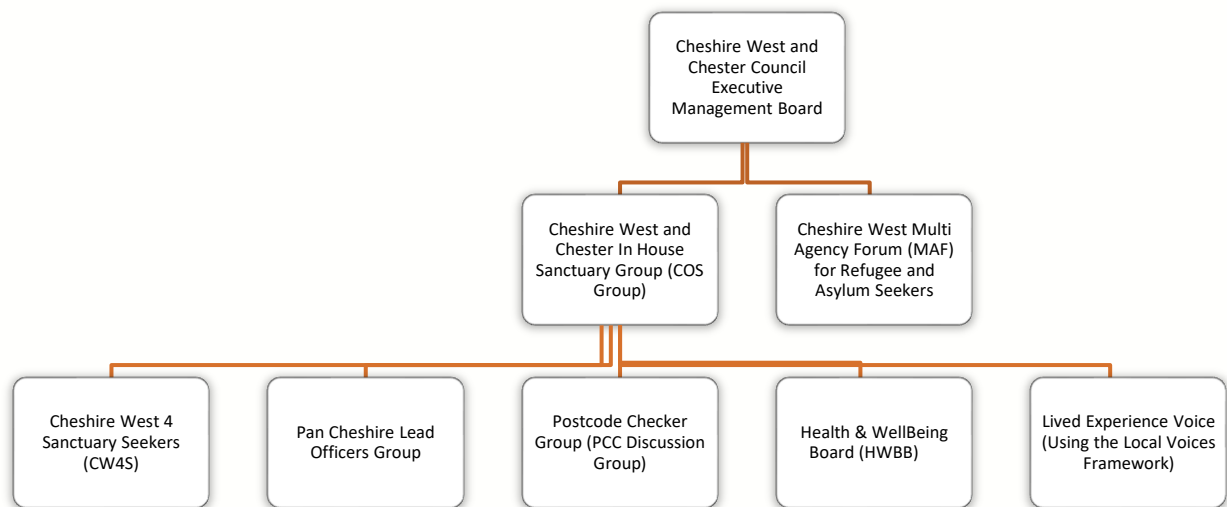
	<p>3] Partners to commit to supporting the National Refugee Week.</p> <p>4] Partners to use their communication mediums to promote positive cohesive messages.</p>		<p>during National Refugee Week, working towards long term sustainability and promoting community integration.</p> <p>Partners show leadership in myth busting and instead promote positive images and stories.</p>
<p>The local authority publicly highlights its work in support of welcome and inclusion by making it visible on its website and noticeboards NB. Once the sanctuary award is received, we would expect the logo and a link to the webpage on the website.</p>	<p>1] Review information on CW&C website and update as necessary to include the City of Sanctuary Award and the Council's participation in the Governments National Transfer Scheme and Resettlement and Dispersal Schemes.</p> <p>2] Partner organisations will ensure that information on the CW&C Live Well website and the Directory of Services will be relevant and up to date for people seeking sanctuary</p>		<p>Council's website to be updated with relevant and appropriate information.</p> <p>The Cheshire Live Well website and the Directory of Services to be linked and regularly updated with the support of the Council's Refugee and Asylum Seeker Team. Cheshire West Borough of Sanctuary Live Well Cheshire West (cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)-</p>
<p>Commitment to on-going engagement with the City of Sanctuary Local Authority Network. This may include sharing resources, ideas and achievements via the network and City of Sanctuary UK website.</p>	<p>Identify CW&C representative(s) to liaise and work with the City of Sanctuary Local Authority Network and the local City of Sanctuary group.</p>		<p>CW&C has now become a Member of the City of Sanctuary Local Authority Network and regularly disseminates information on policy changes, training opportunities and general best practice.</p> <p>Refugee and Asylum seeker team regularly attends the local City of Sanctuary group and services the Cheshire West For Sanctuary (CW4S)</p>
<p>Work with the network to identify national policy issues in order to make collective representations to government to encourage and enable change</p>	<p>Provide evidence of CW&C working with the City of Sanctuary Local Authority Network.</p>		<p>Final report from Arian Wellbeing project shared with the City of Sanctuary Local Authority Network co-ordinator</p> <p>The Directory of Services shared with the City of Sanctuary Local Authority Network co-ordinator</p> <p>CW&C has now become a Member of the City Of Sanctuary Local Authority Network and regularly disseminates information on policy changes, training opportunities and general best practice.</p>

Appendix 4: Proposed Partnership Training Plan

Early Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ This (EAL) module has been completed and is available on Livewell for all early year's providers, including reception. ➤ The EAL part of the website has been updated to include the most recent Bell Foundation research, assessments and toolkits (and this is monitored at least termly) ➤ The Early Years Team Training Directory is updated annually, and all courses and networks ensure that inclusion is a key feature. ➤ The targeted work completed by the Early Years Team is also informed by schools and early years providers and supports inclusive practice and recognition of the unique child. ➤ The Early Years newsletter continues to regularly promote links to training and best practice in support of practitioners understanding of inclusive practice ➤ The action around Makaton remains as it stands.
Housing training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ An information pack has been produced, and translated, explaining the housing options available to new refugees. This has been shared with all partners.
Trauma Informed Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Trauma Informed training and development opportunities for the volunteer, community, and faith sector, as well as Ukrainian host families and sponsors. ➤ The offer is set as two training programmes: ➤ Psychological First Aid and the principles of Look, Listen, Link. ➤ Working with Trauma-Experienced Refugees, Asylum Seekers and other Migrant Communities to develop knowledge and skills in understanding the impact of trauma and how to respond through a trauma lens to support emotional regulation and recovery.
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Partners are encouraged to ensure that all staff have access to training around issues such as :- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Equality, Diversity and Inclusion ▪ Unconscious Bias ▪ Trans Awareness ▪ Equality Analysis ▪ Honour based Violence ▪ Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) ▪ Forced marriages ▪ Modern Slavery ▪ Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) ▪ Gypsy Traveller ▪ Cultural awareness – working with an interpreter
No Recourse to Public Funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Bespoke training to be offered to Council staff and 3rd sector partners on NRPf with the support of the NRPf Network.
Migrant Help	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Immigration processes training has been delivered to Council employees and will be

	repeated. Third Sector Partners have also been signposted to the Migrant Help training.
Beans on Toast Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ training to raise awareness and educate staff and volunteers across all sectors about food poverty and insecurity, themes to include: ➤ the current challenges with inflation ➤ the importance of treating people needing support with dignity and respect ➤ budgeting ➤ the journey people can go through when seeking support

Appendix 5: Structure of Refugee and Asylum support



Appendix 6: Data as of 30th September 2024

There are a range of different communities that come to live in and enhance Cheshire West. Some through government programmes, some through normal migration routes, and the below numbers are a reflection of those that Partners are aware of. (this information is sourced locally or by the home office)

Dispersed Asylum Seekers	650
Refugees via Immigration system	unknown – but work is ongoing to improve data collection
Resettled Refugees	21 Afghan families (via ARAP/ACRS) 21 Syrian families (via SRP) 720 Ukrainians (HfU and UFU) 5 UKRS families Approx 200 Hong Kong families 1 Chagossian family
Over 15,000 EU citizens	According to the November 2022 figures from the Government EU settlement scheme there were 14,430 EU citizens registered as living within Cheshire West
Other known and unknown communities	Such as the 50 families from East Timor in Winsford, or those people accessing other places of worship or who come from other parts of the world that have created their own communities. Over 2,000 foreign students and family members associated with the University of Chester.