



## Sanctuary Strategic Action Plan 2026 – 2028



*Beneficiaries of the Gateway Protection Programme shortly after arrival in the city 2006*

# Introduction

This Sanctuary Strategic Action Plan 2026–2028 sets out Brighton & Hove city council’s (BHCC’s) vision and commitments as a Local Authority of Sanctuary. The plan builds on over two decades of experience in refugee resettlement, community welcome, and partnership working, and is rooted in our city’s values of inclusion, equity, and anti-racism.

## **1. Our Strategic Framework**

The Sanctuary Strategic Action Plan sits alongside the council’s [Anti-Racism Strategy](#) 2023 - 2028, which commits us to tackling structural inequalities and embedding anti-racist practice across all our work.

It complements the Anti-Racism Strategy with actions related specifically to creating a culture of welcome for newcomers to the city.

## **2. Current challenges and our vision for a City of Sanctuary and community cohesion**

As with many places across the UK, we face significant challenges: rising polarisation, hate incidents, and the impact of global events and economic pressures are testing the resilience of our social fabric. These changes are affecting the local authority, but also the work and objectives of our statutory partners, local employers, the community and voluntary sector and our faith communities.

Perceptions of division and “culture wars” in the UK are high, with tensions around immigration, identity, faith, and political affiliation increasingly shaping public attitudes. Many residents feel culture is changing too fast, and national pride has declined. These trends highlight the urgency of our work and the need for approaches that foster unity, respect difference, and build common ground.

Recent years have brought new complexities. The cost-of-living crisis, persistent inequalities, and the legacy of the pandemic have deepened divisions and made it harder for some groups to access opportunities and support. National and international events - conflicts, waves of forced migration, and a proliferation of mis-, dis- and mal-information on these subjects- have played out locally, sometimes resulting in visible signs of tension and fear, particularly for faith

communities. Trust in institutions is reducing for some residents, and some residents feel their voices are not heard and their concerns are not addressed.

Despite these challenges, Brighton & Hove is committed to being a city where everyone feels safe, valued, and able to thrive. Our vision is for a city that not only meets the immediate needs of sanctuary seekers, but also fosters a sense of belonging, opportunity, and social cohesion for all residents. We believe that by providing better services for our residents who have sought sanctuary, we improve services for everyone.

### **3 Our Approach**

Our approach is shaped by the principles of the City of Sanctuary movement - Learn, Embed, Share - and we have gained important insights from the work of other local authorities through the City of Sanctuary local authority network.

We have also been influenced by recent work on *Welcoming Cities* by the Centre on Migration Policy and Society<sup>1</sup> which provides five principles for the welcoming city. These emerged from the Inclusive Cities programme (a peer learning programme for city councils in the UK) of which Brighton & Hove was a member between 2019 and 2023. The five principles are:

**a) Provide local leadership to create change.**

Building a truly welcoming city requires leadership at every level – political, organisational and within the community. The actions in our plan equip BHCC to communicate the council's message of welcome clearly and consistently while building the capacity of community leaders to work with us.

**b) Make inclusion a shared responsibility, delivered in partnership**

The governance of the plan is based on the sharing of responsibility across the city council's departments (embedding the sanctuary work) through our Sanctuary Oversight Group and relies on the input of the Third Sector and other statutory agencies. Our decades long and ongoing investment in the Third Sector values the expertise and knowledge they bring to the table. The new investment outlined in the plan below will further build capacity for partnership working.

**c) Work with both newcomers and longer standing residents**

We recognise this as a key principle of the City of Sanctuary Movement. The recent restructure of BHCC has placed refugee resettlement programmes, Homes for Ukraine, work on asylum and the co-ordination of our Sanctuary work within a new Community Cohesion service alongside the

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<sup>1</sup> Broadhead, J (2025) *Welcoming Cities: How Newcomers Shape Urban Policy Making* . Bristol University Press

third sector team and community safety. The development of a new community cohesion roadmap is underway and this expands on how work in neighbourhoods to foster solidarity between newcomers and longstanding communities will be prioritised and taken forward.

**d) Use available data to understand the local context in order to identify core priorities, set goals, obtain resources and monitor impact**

BHCC carried out an extensive International Migrants Needs Assessment (published in 2018) which has been recognised as an example of good practice in using local data to inform policy making on work with migrants. Over the coming months we will be working on an updated needs assessment on our 'Globally Displaced' populations. This is still in the early stages but is detailed in the actions below.

At the time of writing the government is consulting on a major policy change in the process by which newcomers to our cities will gain permission to settle in the UK in the long term (*A fairer path to Settlement*). The impact of these proposals, once implemented, and of other major policy changes (outlined in *Restoring Order and Control: a Statement on the government's asylum and returns policy*) on our local communities is unknown. So it is all the more important that we use data to track these changes in future and adapt priorities accordingly.

**e) Take action at the local level, provide advocacy at the national level and learn from and contribute to best practice internationally.**

BHCC values the opportunity to work with other local authorities across the UK through the networks provided through the City of Sanctuary movement and other networks. We have also been part of international learning programmes for cities (for example through Eurocities in earlier years) and will continue to seek opportunities to find inspiration from international work on integration and welcoming.

## **4 Our commitment to welcoming those seeking Sanctuary and the strategic action plan**

BHCC will continue its commitment to working with the government on national schemes which welcome and seek to integrate newcomers. Our application to be a Local Authority of Sanctuary outlines our historical commitment, over at least 20 years, to receiving and welcoming refugees on government resettlement programmes and other schemes for those forced to migrate from their countries or regions. The delivery of our resettlement programmes has been outsourced to an experienced local provider for a decade. BHCC works constructively with government and their contractors to promote the wellbeing of asylum seekers placed in our area and uses its convening power as a local authority to bring together all partners engaged in this work. We have also

expressed an interest in working with government to pilot and develop new local authority-led approaches to accommodating and supporting asylum seekers.

The strategic action plan below does not cover the above programmes of work explicitly but instead sets out a set of outcomes and new actions across key areas where we would like to focus over the next three years. The people who have arrived and will arrive in the city via government schemes will benefit from these actions alongside other sanctuary seekers in the city who are not on government programmes, current and former asylum seekers, members of longstanding and valued communities, such as the Sudanese and Iranians who made the city their home decades ago after arriving in the city as refugees. BHCC believes that this work will, in fact, benefit all residents in the city – all newcomers as well as longstanding communities.

In the following pages, the reader will find a section on each outcome, summarising the council's planned work under this theme and the financial and staff resources that the council has committed to implement these actions. The actions are arranged under the following themes:

1. Community Cohesion - Brighton & Hove as a safe and welcoming City for all
2. Safe and Sustainable homes for sanctuary seekers
3. Accessible Immigration Legal Advice
4. Strong Third Sector organisations delivering support services for sanctuary seekers and working with the council to deliver this plan
5. Expanded access to English Language learning for newcomers
6. Accessible mental health and wellbeing support
7. Improved access to health and social care services
8. Joined up services and information for residents with No Recourse to Public Funds who are destitute or at risk of destitution
9. A migrant-friendly council
10. Reflecting City of Sanctuary priorities in advocacy and public affairs
11. Economic Empowerment
12. Improved educational opportunities and wellbeing support for children and young people seeking sanctuary

Many of the actions are already underway using existing resources but we have committed funding of £1.15 million over the next three years from the Sanctuary budget to progress some of the new actions. This includes £300K for a new community grants programme on top of other

funding already committed to community welcoming projects for asylum seekers and other sanctuary seekers. The structure and outcomes of the grants programme will be co-designed with the third sector, building on BHCC's long experience of designing and delivering Third Sector grants programmes. 100% of the Sanctuary budget comes from ringfenced government grant for forced migration programmes and our financial commitments are based on our forecast income from these budgets.

The principles and content of the Action Plan were signed off by the council's Informal Cabinet at a meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2025 and by the lead member.

Brighton & Hove's Sanctuary Action Plan is designed to remain agile and responsive. We will continually review and adapt our approach in partnership with our communities, drawing on national and international best practice and responding proactively to emerging needs and opportunities as they arise.

## **1. Delivery**

Delivery is the responsibility of a range of council departments. Operational leadership and co-ordination is provided by the Community Cohesion Service (Refugee & Migrant Team) where there are dedicated roles: International Migration Manager, Resettlement and Asylum Coordinator, Ukraine Programme Coordinator, and a new Project Officer (currently under recruitment).

Wherever possible, actions will be co-designed and delivered with local voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations, faith groups, and people with lived experience of seeking sanctuary.

## **2. Governance, Monitoring & Evaluation**

The proposed governance framework is as follows:

- **Senior Accountability:** The Director of Commissioning and Communities (Families, Children and Wellbeing Directorate) is the senior accountable officer, receiving regular progress reports from the Community Cohesion Service. Political oversight will be provided by the Cabinet Member for Communities, Equalities, Public Health and Adult Social Care
- **Sanctuary Oversight Group:** This cross-council group, which has overseen the development of the Sanctuary Strategic Action Plan, will meet quarterly to monitor delivery and effectiveness. The group is chaired by the Head of Community Cohesion.
- **Cabinet Oversight:** An annual progress report on the Sanctuary Action Plan will be submitted to Cabinet, ensuring political oversight and accountability.

- **Corporate Reporting:** Quarterly updates on the action plan will be included in the usual corporate reporting on the Council Plan, where Sanctuary work is identified as a strategic priority.
- **Community Reference Group:** Local voluntary and community sector agencies, who contributed to the development of the action plan, will continue to meet as a Sanctuary Reference Group. This group will act as a ‘critical friend’ to the local authority, with increased representation from those with lived experience, supported by Sanctuary on Sea and other local agencies.
- **Evaluation and Learning:** Progress will be measured through regular feedback, community forums, and annual public reporting. Evaluation will focus on both quantitative outcomes (e.g., service uptake, housing secured, training delivered) and qualitative feedback from sanctuary seekers and partners, ensuring continuous learning and improvement.

# Actions and summary of the distribution of Sanctuary budget (£1.15 million) for new projects over 3 year plan 2026 - 2028

## **Outcome 1: Community Cohesion: Brighton & Hove as a safe and welcoming city**

**This work is led by the Community Cohesion team including new project officer. Resources committed from Sanctuary budget for new projects : £205K over 3 years (not including funding for project officer).**

### **Clear public messaging and engagement to promote our culture of welcome**

- Develop Brighton & Hove's new community cohesion 'roadmap' incorporating the aspirations of this Sanctuary action plan and its vision statement.
- Create a city wide communications campaign in collaboration with local media, businesses and CVS/faith groups promoting Brighton & Hove as a welcoming city for all.
- Sustain work already ongoing that led to the award of Library Service of Sanctuary in 2024.

### **Clear and consistent information and messages of welcome for sanctuary seekers**

- Fund weekly Sanctuary drop in sessions at local church providing food, advice and a warm welcome to asylum seekers in the city
- Work with Third Sector members of Brighton & Hove Refugee & Migrant Forum (BHRMF) to sustain and update online directory/resources for newcomers. Publicise this widely and make available to professionals eg NHS practitioners/social prescribers, frontline staff in council and CVS.
- Review external council web pages and pages on the council intranet related to Sanctuary work linking to above resources, within a renewed message of welcome for external audiences and council staff, ensuring clarity and accessibility for all.
- Learning from libraries work, develop neighbourhood/community spaces (including family hubs) being "Places of sanctuary" with consistent access to information via above resources and through trained and informed staff.

- Ensure the above information resources include timely, accurate and accessible updates on changes to government policy on settlement, asylum and refugees to minimise the risk of false information, rumours and bad advice.
- Building on learning during the Covid pandemic, explore further use of existing channels of communication with local Sanctuary Seekers (such as text messages to service users of local interpreting services) as well as the possibility of a ‘newcomers buddy app’ for Brighton & Hove.

### **The Community Safety strategy 2026 – 2029 meets the needs of Sanctuary seekers**

- Continue to broker opportunities for Sussex Police to engage with sanctuary seeker communities and improve trust and confidence in the police.
- Include specific concerns and needs of sanctuary seekers as the community safety strategy 2026 - 2029 is developed and implemented, including consideration of appropriate third party reporting centres for sanctuary seekers who may not wish to report crimes and incidents to the council or police. (The five key strands of this work are: Serious violence, drugs and exploitation; domestic abuse, sexual violence and violence against women and girls; anti-social behaviour; hate crimes and incidents; Prevent/counter terrorism and extremism).

### **Outcome 2: Safe and Sustainable Homes for Sanctuary Seekers**

**This work is led by the specialist refugee and migrant housing team funded through the Sanctuary budget.**

#### **Enhance opportunities for sanctuary seekers to secure and maintain safe and suitable housing.**

- Improve and develop the council's current landlord engagement programme to increase supply of private rental properties for sanctuary seekers
- Provide specialist housing advice and homelessness prevention interventions for sanctuary seekers
- Improve PRS Access by providing sanctuary seekers with 1st months' rent, deposits and incentives for landlords
- Explore the development of a hosting/lodging scheme for all refugee groups, building on the Homes for Ukraine and current national schemes

**Ensure Sanctuary Seekers can make properly informed decisions about their housing options, understanding their rights and responsibilities as tenants.**

- Create and deliver an outreach and engagement programme for sanctuary seekers, and those who support them, about Brighton & Hove's housing market and realistic routes to rented accommodation in the city and surrounding area.
- Explore the development of an independent housing advocacy worker
- Create accessible and legally compliant sign-up process for council properties including TA, building on experience of signing up Afghan households into LAHF properties .
- Develop housing tenancy services which empower sanctuary seekers to thrive in the neighborhoods they call home, linking to employment support and family hubs.

**Outcome 3: Accessible Immigration Legal Advice**

**This work is led by the Community Cohesion team. Resources committed from Sanctuary budget: £150K over 3 years.**

**Sustain and further develop the capacity of local providers of immigration legal advice, ensuring refugees and migrants have better access to immigration legal advice both within and outside the scope of legal aid.**

This is an ongoing discussion with council departments supporting households with insecure immigration status as well as providers of immigration legal advice in the city. Our hope is to sustain existing levels of immigration legal advice for all, while addressing the need for immigration legal advice for households supported by the council who have No Recourse to Public Funds.

**Outcome 4: Strong Third Sector organisations delivering support services for sanctuary seekers and working with the council to deliver this plan.**

**This work is led by the Community Cohesion team. Resources committed from Sanctuary budget: £300K over three years, with £100K of this sum ringfenced for the development of small refugee and migrant led groups.**

**Ensure that the Third Sector has the tools, networks, and resources necessary to extend its reach and continue operating effectively in support of sanctuary seekers**

- Create and deliver a two year grant programme with and for the CVS supporting sanctuary seekers and strengthening community cohesion, whilst balancing the offer to other residents in the city. Grant outcomes will be developed with the CVS – for example to create opportunities for newcomers and longstanding residents to connect and build relationships (for example through informal English language learning), community led welcoming and integration projects and to improve the wellbeing of sanctuary seekers through arts and culture.
- Development of capacity of refugee and migrant led organisations and of lived experience expertise. This separate outcome recognises the current lack of capacity in the city's refugee and migrant led organisations where we would like to enable participation in decision making and representation in civic life from a wider and more diverse group of sanctuary seekers, representing intersectional identities (for example those who are disabled or carers).
- Grant funded organisations to form part of the reference group which feeds into the governance structure of this plan.

**Outcome 5: Expanded Access to English Language learning for newcomers**

**This work is led by community cohesion and the skills and employment teams. £80K is being invested over 3 years from the Sanctuary budget to enhance existing projects and delivery.**

**Improve the availability and accessibility of English language learning opportunities for adult sanctuary seekers and embed this in the wider integration services for sanctuary seekers**

- Include funding for informal English language learning and opportunities for conversational practice as part of grants programme
- Fund the University of Sussex to provide places for Sanctuary Seekers in their higher level intensive English class which leads to HE or employment
- Fund travel to the Adult Education hub for guests in asylum accommodation
- Embedded advice and guidance for ESOL learners at the Adult Education hub

- Develop better models of English language learning where childcare is provided for learners with caring responsibilities for young children, starting with those on resettlement programmes.
- Co-ordinate meetings of local state funded ESOL providers to promote sharing of best practice, maintain joint assessment processes and make student entry to ESOL classes as smooth as possible. Maintain and develop ESOL 'landing page' on council website in collaboration with CVS partners and ESOL providers.
- Monitor and review measures social value measures related to city wide ESOL co-ordination and referral routes which form part of the contract for casework, employability and ESOL for resettled refugees.
- Explore ways of building the capacity and sustainability of local ESOL sector including the training of more teachers at the levels where there are shortages , including those with lived experience of migration.
- Explore further development of on-site language courses for employees at BHCC (eg Environmental services, security, cleaners)

## **Outcome 6: Accessible mental health and wellbeing support**

**This work is being led by community cohesion and the public health team, working in partnership with NHS and Third Sector colleagues. £6K has been committed from the Sanctuary budget to improving access to leisure facilities for residents of the city's asylum contingency hotel.**

### **Increase access to suitable mental health and wellbeing services for sanctuary seekers**

- Include mental wellbeing of sanctuary seekers within the outcomes for the grants programme in outcome 4.
- Work in partnership with ICB and CVS delivery partners to maximise benefit to locally accommodated asylum seekers from south east asylum therapeutic support grant (£20K from Home Office ). Oct 25 - March 26.
- Dedicated one to one counselling in Ukrainian language delivered in person locally
- Working with ICB, despite diminished NHS resources, maintain co-ordinated approach across statutory sector and CVS to addressing mental health needs of sanctuary seekers .

This will feed into the rollout of the Integrated Communities Teams and exploration into their use as a neighbourhood resource for sanctuary seekers in their communities.

- Access to leisure centres for asylum seekers

## **Outcome 7: Improved access to health and social care services**

**This work is being led by community cohesion and the public health team, working in partnership with NHS and Third Sector colleagues. £5K has been committed from the Sanctuary budget to support engagement with sanctuary seekers communities.**

### **Create better access to health and care services for all newcomers to Brighton & Hove.**

- Convene vulnerable migrants health sub group, ensuring multi agency capacity is co-ordinated and maximised and that urgent issues related to access to NHS care ( to address both physical and mental ill health) are escalated. Consider the recommendations from the recent report carried out by Sanctuary on Sea on behalf of Healthwatch.
- With CVS partners advocate for health and care providers to develop multi-lingual health information that is accessible and relevant to newcomers, Including: ensuring health checks, vaccinations and screenings are offered to all.
- Explore possibility of requirement in contracts of BHCC commissioned health and social care providers to make available multi-lingual information about these services.
- Work with ICB to ensure that social prescribing services delivered in Brighton & Hove meet the needs of sanctuary seekers
- Encourage Sussex maternity services to draw on City of Sanctuary maternity resources
- Publicise NHS commissioned emergency dentistry services and ensure they remain accessible for sanctuary seekers eg that dentists use interpreters.
- Work with the ICB to encourage more GP surgeries and health centres to become 'Safe Surgeries' (currently we have 12 in the city)
- Carry out summary needs assessment of globally displaced communities. The scope of this and its timescale is being decided at the time of writing.

## **Outcome 8: Joined up services and information for residents with No Recourse to Public Funds who are destitute or at risk of destitution**

**This work is led by Community Cohesion with the council's NRPF internal steering group. £107K has been committed from the Sanctuary budget to develop this work over the next three years, including the development of and recruitment to a new destitute migrant project officer (0.6FTE).**

### **Following an assessment of need, establish a clear multi-partner support plan for destitute households with no recourse to public funds**

- Using the City of Sanctuary NRPF model/toolkit complete a gaps analysis of need versus current services that provide support to destitute migrants
- Establish robust, humane and consistent assessment processes, internal referral pathways and (where someone is eligible) support packages for households presenting to the council with NRPF,
- Public sector and CVS/ faith organisations will work together to develop a city wide response to migrant destitution including work to reduce the risk of exploitation and modern slavery.
- Produce and publish accessible information about support available to destitute migrants and those at risk of destitution.

## **Outcome 9: A migrant-friendly council**

**This work embeds the Sanctuary work across the council and therefore is led by departments across the organisation. £30K committed to training staff over the next 3 years.**

### **Learning from our Library Service of Sanctuary, transform the council into a migrant-friendly organisation by embedding migration awareness into its policies, practices and overall ethos, alongside anti-racist practice**

- Learn from best practice nationally, from academics and from those with Lived Experience to devise EDI monitoring questions (for Your Voice consultation portal and other purposes)

that enable us to capture data on Sanctuary seekers. Use this data in policy work, for example EIA processes to improve city services for sanctuary seekers.

- Twice yearly training for Children's workforce on Working with Refugee and Migrant Families delivered by internal cross council expertise.
- Arrange training session for elected members to inform them about the city's sanctuary seeker communities.
- Cross sectoral migrant awareness learning and development for staff across the council alongside partners, including commissioning of external trainers. Opportunities for reflection and self directed learning to be pursued also eg living library/voices of lived experience made available
- Migrant-inclusive anti-poverty work (including, for example, implementation of recommendations from BRM Food Poverty report )
- Migrant-inclusive VAWG strategy implementation
- Conduct a rolling audit of current council policies to identify areas where support for Sanctuary work could be incorporated further, and update policies as required.
- Boost use of Sanctuary focused Social Value outcomes in BHCC contracting
- Establish centrally controlled contracts for high quality interpreting and translation services and ensure that all staff can easily and efficiently access interpreting and translation resources when needed.
- Ensure recruitment information and approach is inclusive and has considered migrant needs. Continue targeting briefings and information about working for the council to migrant support groups and HR recruitment team to continue to take part in Inclusive Jobs Fairs and similar events.

## **Outcome 10: Reflect City of Sanctuary priorities in advocacy and public affairs**

**This work is being led by the council's cabinet office and community cohesion using existing resources**

**Integrate priorities identified by national City of Sanctuary and locally by elected members into the council's public affairs strategy to raise awareness and drive policy changes.**

- Ongoing contribution to city of sanctuary local authority network steering group and its work
- Seek feedback from sanctuary seekers and related organisations to inform policy development, service design, and public affairs

- With local and national stakeholders (including national city of sanctuary) identify issues for national policy development and respond to government consultations eg Settlement Consultation 2025-6.
- Contribute to the work of the Executive Board and Sussex/Surrey sub groups of the South East Strategic Partnership for Migration (SESPM). Currently the Leader of Brighton & Hove city council is the Chair of the South East Strategic Partnership for Migration and the International Migration manager is the chair of the Surrey and Sussex sub- group of SESPm.
- Explore opportunities for BHCC elected members to participate in national networks of councillors who are migrant champions.
- Monitor policy developments at regional and national level and provide updates to decision makers, statutory partners and the CVS.
- Sign up to international online learning opportunity presented by Welcoming America's Global Peer Connections Programme (cost free).

## Outcome 11: Economic Empowerment

**This work is led by the skills and employment team and community cohesion team. £142.5K has recently been granted to the local Third Sector to deliver employability and business start up support over a one year period from which we will take learning into the wider employability sector through the ten year Get Sussex Working Plan as outlined below.**

### Improve economic outcomes for refugees and migrants by enhancing access to skills and employment opportunities, business support and training

- Grant fund local CVS, including the Chamber of Commerce, to continue delivery of specialist employability and business start up support for sanctuary seekers. This is for one year and continues existing investment through the Ukraine programme.
- The 10 year [Get Sussex Working Plan](#) (GSPW 2025 - 2035) has identified "**global majority communities, particularly migrants and refugees**" as a priority group at a pan-County level. The proposals in the plan to help this priority group suggest expanded ESOL provision, culturally informed employment and skills services and stronger employer support for inclusive recruitment. By improving access to training, work experience and fair hiring processes, Sussex can better unlock the skills, experience and perspectives these

residents have, helping to tackle labour shortages while building a more inclusive and dynamic workforce.

- The Get Sussex Action Plan includes a number of overarching proposals into which the particular needs of sanctuary seekers will be embedded:
  - A Strategic Skills Plan for Sussex will be developed that recognises the GSWP priority groups and identifies how devolved Adult Skills Funding can be used - at or above current levels - to create employment pathways in sectors linked to local growth plans for example the health and care sector.
  - Within the context of the wider employment support infrastructure, the Integrated Care Board, Integrated Community Teams and Primary Care providers will address health-related barriers to employment for priority groups identified in the GSWP and will identify and refer residents into employment support where this can be beneficial.
  - The DWP [Connect to Work](#) employability programme will be delivered, meeting the specific needs of key cohorts including sanctuary seekers.
  - A variety of preemployment programmes will be developed to support economically inactive people to develop soft skills, increasing confidence to move towards employment or mainstream skills provision.. These will also prioritise groups identified in the GSWP, including ***global majority communities, particularly migrants and refugees.***

## **Outcome 12: Improved educational opportunities and wellbeing support for children and young people seeking sanctuary**

**This work is led by colleagues in Families, Children and Wellbeing – both education and social care. As well as funding the English as an Additional Language and Traveller Service to carry out their core work with newly arriving children (aged 2-16) from resettled refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds, and the Youth Employability Service for work with 16 – 18 year olds, the Sanctuary budget is also committing £129K to child psychology services and education for teachers.**

**Improve support for children and young people who are new to the UK to ensure they thrive in schools and colleges, overcoming barriers to successful learning and integration into the local education system**

- Provide Information, Advice and Guidance and practical support to young sanctuary seekers who are 16-18 years old on learning, work and personal development opportunities through the council's Youth Employability Service.
- As part of the anti-racism work in schools, support educators by embedding cultural competency, trauma informed practice (including Healing Classrooms work where possible) and awareness of the needs of children in families seeking sanctuary
- Encourage more schools, nurseries and colleges to become Schools of Sanctuary and renew their awards
- Fund English as an Additional Language and Traveller Services (EALTS) for work with asylum seekers and other vulnerable migrants including Ukrainians aged 2-18 – this includes home-school liaison and bilingual assistance for pre-school, primary and secondary age children.
- Fund Child Psychology services for asylum seeking and refugee children

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