



# **Stockport City of Sanctuary**

## **Constitution**

**Adopted on: 18 November 2024**

### **1. Name**

The name of the group shall be **Stockport City of Sanctuary** (hereafter referred to as “the Group”).

### **2. Aims**

The aims of Stockport City of Sanctuary are to:

1. Promote the inclusion, dignity, safety, and wellbeing of refugees and people seeking sanctuary living in or connected to Stockport.

2. Encourage Stockport to make and sustain a public commitment to becoming a place of welcome and safety by adopting and upholding the principles of the **City of Sanctuary** movement.
3. Support and empower local communities, businesses, statutory bodies, voluntary, community, and faith organisations to welcome, include, and support people seeking sanctuary.
4. Celebrate the social, cultural, and economic contributions of refugees and people seeking sanctuary, while challenging hostility, prejudice, discrimination, and misinformation.
5. Ensure people with lived experience of seeking sanctuary are meaningfully involved in shaping, delivering, and reviewing the Group's work, in line with principles of co-production.
6. Recognise and celebrate organisations that demonstrate a strong commitment to welcoming and including people seeking sanctuary through participation in the **City of Sanctuary Awards** programme, using nationally agreed criteria and processes. Awards are reviewed periodically to ensure ongoing commitment and progress.
7. Participate in national City of Sanctuary consultations, events, learning opportunities, and celebrations, contributing to the wider movement.

### **3. Powers**

In furtherance of its aims, the Group may:

- a) Work collaboratively with people seeking sanctuary in Stockport, ensuring their voices inform the Group's priorities and activities.
- b) Collaborate with other organisations and groups to share information, learning, and good practice.

- c) Raise public awareness of City of Sanctuary principles through appropriate communications, events, and activities.**
- d) Encourage and support local organisations, businesses, and community groups to formally endorse and embed City of Sanctuary principles.**
- e) Engage constructively with Stockport Council and other public bodies to promote a culture of welcome and inclusion.**
- f) Organise meetings, workshops, training sessions, and community events aligned with the Group's aims and capacity.**
- g) Raise funds and manage a bank account to support the Group's activities, in accordance with financial controls.**
- h) Take out appropriate insurance to cover activities, volunteers, and events.**
- i) Recruit, train, and support volunteers in a safe and inclusive manner.**
- j) Establish sub-committees or working groups where necessary, with clear terms of reference.**
- k) Do all other lawful things that are necessary or appropriate to achieve the Group's aims.**

#### **4. Membership**

- a) Membership shall be open to individuals aged 18 and over who support the aims of the Group and agree to abide by this constitution, regardless of disability, race, ethnicity, nationality, religion or belief, gender, sexual orientation, or political affiliation.**

b) A membership subscription may be set by the Management Committee, if required.

c) Members are expected to conduct themselves in a way that upholds the values of City of Sanctuary.

d) Membership may be terminated by the Management Committee for good reason, including conduct contrary to the Group's aims or values. The member concerned shall be given the opportunity to present their case to the Committee before a final decision is made.

## **5. Management and Governance**

a) The Group shall be governed by a **Management Committee** consisting of not fewer than three and not more than ten members, elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

b) The Officers of the Management Committee shall include:

- Chairperson
- Secretary
- Treasurer

c) The Management Committee may co-opt up to three additional individuals in a non-voting, advisory capacity where specialist knowledge or lived experience would support the Group's work.

d) The Management Committee shall meet at least four times per year.

e) The quorum for a Management Committee meeting shall be three members.

f) Decisions shall be made by a simple majority of those present and voting. In the event of a tie, the Chairperson shall have a casting vote.

g) Accurate minutes shall be kept of all Management Committee meetings and sub-committee meetings.

h) The Management Committee may establish sub-committees or working groups and delegate specific tasks to them, provided overall responsibility remains with the Committee.

i) The Management Committee has the power to remove a Committee member or member of the Group for good and sufficient reason, following a fair process.

j) Any casual vacancy on the Management Committee may be filled by co-option until the next AGM.

k) A bank account shall be maintained in the name of the Group. Cheques or electronic payments shall require authorisation by at least two designated Committee members.

## **6. Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

a) An AGM shall be held once every calendar year.

b) All members shall be given at least 14 days' notice of the AGM.

c) The AGM shall:

- Receive reports from the Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer
- Elect Management Committee members
- Consider any proposed amendments to the constitution

## **7. Dissolution**

The Group may be dissolved by a resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at an AGM or a specially convened general meeting.

In the event of dissolution, any remaining assets, after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities, shall be transferred to a voluntary or charitable organisation with similar aims, as determined by the membership.

## 8. Adoption

This constitution was adopted at a meeting of Stockport City of Sanctuary held on:

**Date:** 18 November 2024

**Signed on behalf of the Management Committee:**

Name: \_\_\_ David Mutai \_\_\_\_\_

Role: \_\_\_ Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_ 18th November 2024 \_\_\_\_\_

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Committee Signatories:

Sr Broadhurst

Sandy Broadhurst: ..... (Chairperson)

J. C. Pearson

John Pearson ..... (Treasurer)

David Mutai

David Mutai: ..... (Secretary)