

Leicester City of Sanctuary
(Registered charity, number 1172819)
Financial statements
for the year ended 31 March 2026

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**Leicester City of Sanctuary
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 March 2026**

Full name Leicester City of Sanctuary

Other names by which the charity is known LCOS (working name)

Organisation type Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Registered charity number 1172819

Principal address c/o The Bridge Offices, 43 Melton Street, Leicester, LE1 3NB

Trustees

Rev Peter Hobson, Chair

Anne Senior

Peter Williamson

Dr Poojaben Shah, from 25/10/25

Sherri Sau-Yee Wong Hearing

Sarah Jones

Jessamyn Witthaus

Sultana Taib, from 17/06/25

Independent examiner

Eva Stevens, employee of Community Accounting Plus, Units 1 & 2 North West, 41 Talbot Street, Nottingham, NG1 5GL

Governance and management

The charity is operated under the rules of its CIO-Foundation constitution adopted 02/05/2017.

New trustees can be co-opted during the year but names must be put to the AGM.

Objectives and activities

1. To advance the education of the public, especially in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, about the issues relating to refugees and to people seeking asylum or sanctuary.
2. To advance education and relieve poverty and financial hardship amongst refugees, people seeking sanctuary and people refused asylum in the UK, and their dependants, residing in Leicester, Leicestershire, or Rutland.
3. To provide facilities for training, recreation or other leisure time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life of those persons who have need of such facilities.
4. The promotion of equality and diversity for the public benefit by promoting activities to foster understanding between people from diverse backgrounds.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit

We operate a weekly drop-in for asylum seekers, offering a range of enrichment activities including English classes, creative activities and physical exercise. We also provide a shared meal and a safe social space, as well as trips that support orientation around the city. We provide a range of information about health and wellbeing, language and education, employment, navigating circumstances and transition to settlement.

Leicester City of Sanctuary

Our main beneficiaries are refugees and asylum seekers who are members of the public. Our activities enable people to feel a sense of belonging not just within our community but also as members of the wider Leicester community. We create awareness and help people to build independent, dignified lives, and support them to participate meaningfully in society. We support initiatives around inclusion, celebrate diversity as well as raising awareness of the challenges faced by our community in transitioning to settlement.

Public benefit statement

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'.

Summary of the main achievements during the period

Leicester City of Sanctuary has run 106 sessions for asylum seekers over the 25/26 financial year with just over 600 people interacting with our service and participating in activities. We have coped well with increasing numbers and continue to support people to build their sense of confidence and independence, navigate often difficult circumstances and access vital support from a range of organisations.

Financial review

We finished the year with a surplus of £13,869 (2024; £9,424), leaving us with over £60k available at the end of the financial year. With a lottery grant currently providing us with 40% of our operating costs, we are in a stable position and will continue to build on this stability to meet the increasing demand for our service.

Reserves policy

Leicester City of Sanctuary will aim to maintain sufficient reserves to:

- Cover approximately 3 months' costs for running the weekly drop in centre and other regular activities;
- Cover approximately 3 months' costs for the employment of two part-time members of staff;
- Meet employment liabilities arising out of any voluntary or disciplinary termination of employment contracts;
- Maintain a small contingency fund to cover any unexpected drop in income from grants or contributions.

The trustees monitor the level of reserves in each category for the purposes of strategic planning.

Financial risk

As a small charity, we rely on a regular supply of grants and funding to continue to operate. These streams can be fragile, and their loss may result in a reduction in service.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signed

Rev Peter Hobson, Trustee

Date 21 July 2026

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of
Leicester City of Sanctuary
for the year ended 31 March 2026**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Leicester City of Sanctuary (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2026.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed  Date 24 August 2026
Eva Stevens BSc, CPFA
Employee of Community Accounting Plus

**Leicester City of Sanctuary
Receipts & payments account
for the year ended 31 March 2026**

2025				2026
Total		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Funds		Funds	Funds	Funds
£	Note	£	£	£
Receipts				
850	Activity income	-	-	-
40979	Donations	2 32163	-	32163
1036	Gift aid	679	-	679
44424	Grants	2 1570	86666	88236
11	Sundry receipts	19	-	19
<u>87300</u>	Total receipts	<u>34431</u>	<u>86666</u>	<u>121097</u>
Payments				
55912	Salaries	23764	56188	79952
131	Other staff costs	-	64	64
930	Accounting	966	-	966
100	Activity costs	-	250	250
3577	Catering	960	4770	5730
665	Consultants	-	3401	3401
20	Emergency support	20	100	120
3996	Equipment & materials	226	1172	1398
1248	Insurance	-	1306	1306
444	IT/software	369	324	693
329	Recruitment	-	-	-
111	Stationery & office supplies	99	946	1045
288	Subscriptions	547	270	817
150	Telephone	90	150	240
478	Training	210	1689	1899
1915	Travel	606	2062	2668
7060	Venue hire	2554	3490	6044
522	Sundry payments	88	547	635
<u>77876</u>	Total payments	<u>30499</u>	<u>76729</u>	<u>107228</u>
9424	Net receipts/(payments)	3932	9937	13869
37573	Cash funds at start of this period	39623	7374	46997
<u>46997</u>	Cash funds at end of this period	<u>43555</u>	<u>17311</u>	<u>60866</u>

**Leicester City of Sanctuary
Statement of assets and liabilities
at 31 March 2026**

2025			2026
£		Note	£
46866	Cash assets		60866
131	Bank accounts		-
<u>46997</u>	Cash in hand		<u>60866</u>
	Other monetary assets		
624	Prepayments	3	1172
<u>624</u>			<u>1172</u>
	Assets retained for the charity's own use		
	General equipment.		
	Two laptops, purchased 13/01/25, £500 each.		
	Sewing machine, purchased 15/12/25, cost £558.		
	Liabilities		
(966)	Creditors - Accounting		(1032)
<u>(966)</u>			<u>(1032)</u>

These financial statements are accepted on behalf of the charity by:

Signed  Dated 13 AUG 2026
Peter Williamson, Trustee

Leicester City of Sanctuary
Notes to the accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2026

1. Receipts & payments accounts

Receipts and payments accounts contain a summary of money received and money spent during the period and a list of assets and liabilities at the end of the period. Usually, cash received and cash spent will include transactions through bank accounts and cash in hand.

2. Grants

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
National Lottery Community Fund	-	47166	47166
Postcode Places	-	25000	25000
Hilden Charitable Fund	-	7000	7000
Southall Trust	-	3500	3500
ICB Public Engagement	-	2000	2000
Leicestershire and Rutland Community Foundation	-	2000	2000
Murphy PH	4000	-	4000
Austins LLP	3500	-	3500
De Montfort University - Songs of Home Project	1944	-	1944
St Mary's Hinckley	1169	-	1169
Leicester City Football Club Community Trust	1040	-	1040
Legacy - Daphne Warren	1000	-	1000
Sycamore Trust	805	-	805
Leicester CMF	530	-	530
St Thomas Aquinas	347	-	347
Sundry donations	19398	-	19398
	<u>33733</u>	<u>86666</u>	<u>120399</u>

3. Prepayments

	£
Insurance	762
Subscriptions	<u>410</u>
	<u>1172</u>

Leicester City of Sanctuary
Notes to the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2026

4. Funds analysis

	Opening balance £	Receipts (Payments) £		Closing balance £
Restricted funds				
Allen Lane	300	-	(300)	-
Garfield Weston	2304	-	(2304)	-
Hilden	2799	7000	(6686)	3113
ICB	-	2000	(2000)	-
LCCF Apex	400	-	(400)	-
Lottery Fund	1571	47166	(39661)	9076
LRCF	-	2000	(1044)	956
Postcode Places	-	25000	(21713)	3287
Southall Trust	-	3500	(2621)	879
	7374	86666	(76729)	17311
Unrestricted funds				
General funds	39623	34431	(30499)	43555
	39623	34431	(30499)	43555

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

Allen Lane – to cover salary costs of a project officer role.

Garfield Weston – to cover various core costs.

Hilden – providing general support for the charity across multiple cost centres.

ICB – from the NHS to facilitate healthcare outreach and talks at our drop in.

LCCF Apex – to support our sewing group with materials, equipment and transport.

Lottery Fund - providing 40% of running costs spread across all aspects of the charity.

LRCF – specifically targeted at providing support for our sewing group.

Postcode Places – providing support across all cost centres.

Southall Trust – principally to support staff and activity costs, as well as venue hire.

Leicester City of Sanctuary
Notes to the accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 March 2026

5. Trustees' remuneration

Trustees received no expenses, remuneration or benefits in this period.

6. Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions during the period.

7. Glossary of terms

Creditors: These are amounts owed by the charity, but not paid during the accounting period.

Prepayments: These are services that the charity has paid for in advance, but not used during the accounting period.

Restricted funds: These are funds given to the charity, subject to specific restrictions set by the donor, but still within the general objects of the charity.