

Swindon City of Sanctuary



Annual Report

May 2023 – April 2024

Swindon City of Sanctuary Registered Charity 1177624

HEADLINES

This year was one of growth for us, with a settled team and an increase to five staff roles, we had the opportunity to promote welcome and inclusion across Swindon. The support of our incredible volunteers and Trustees, dedicating over 750+ hours of volunteering, was invaluable and meant that we continued to expand our work.

We welcomed back our Sectors and Awards Co-ordinator, who led the way in working widely across different sectors in Swindon to promote our values. In the latter part of the year, we welcomed our Schools' Co-ordinator, who continued to generate opportunities for Swindon schools to grow, learn and provide welcome to all. With a newly expanded team, we were able to increase our capacity and develop our work with greater focus. This meant more events in the community where we continued working to educate and raise awareness around the experiences of people seeking sanctuary in Swindon.

Our work in schools grew, contacting more than 26 schools in different contexts, with the pinnacle being Lawn Manor Academy becoming Swindon's second School of Sanctuary, and first secondary school to achieve the award. We're Open social evenings continued to offer a welcoming space, with 365 individual visits, all with the aim of bringing our community together through conversation and coffee. We saw a need for spaces for families with young children, so launched We're Open Families which grew from strength to strength with 544 visits in ten months

The increase in negative media rhetoric, harmful policies and legislation fed into a more hostile environment for people seeking sanctuary and became a barrier to our vision of fostering welcome. We increased our campaigning, focusing on local issues with MPs and Councillors, and nationally, the Bibby Stockholm, joining the voices calling for fair and safer accommodation for those in need. While the asylum system remains unfair and isolating, we saw a continued positive response from the people of Swindon wanting to support people fleeing from war and persecution, alongside an increase in schools, organisations and businesses wanting to work with us and to champion our values.

"Welcome" remained our word of the year. This year, like every year, welcome remained the thread that weaves throughout all our work; we focused on supporting other organisations to embed this within their work too.

As we navigated the challenges of the year, we found solace in all those who unfalteringly supported and embraced our purpose. To all those who work to create welcome, make space for all and speak up for sanctuary, we thank you for being a part of this journey.

OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

1

School of
Sanctuary
Award

120+

Events in the
community

544

Visits to We're
Open Families

365

Visits to
We're Open

2

Creative
collaborations with
Swindon
organisations

7

CPD sessions
in schools

30

Volunteers
supporting
our work

750+

Hours of
volunteering

2

Volunteers with
lived experience of
seeking sanctuary

6

Schools directly
connected with
our work

3

Campaigns promoting
the rights of people
seeking sanctuary

10

Volunteers with
lived experience of
migration

TRUSTEES' NOTE

It's been another year of change and as we remain hugely grateful to our funders who enable us to undertake our work, and to the wonderful people of our local community in Swindon who encourage and support our work, it's quite clear that what we do is now more necessary than ever. Instability and war are ever present across the globe and the mass displacement of people due to conflict does not look as though it will subside for the foreseeable.

We have taken huge strides this year to expand our impact. A focal point has been creating spaces where the community feels welcomed – with the launch of We're Open Families we are providing opportunities for families to meet, build a support network and work to decrease isolation and increase community links. This year our Sectors of Sanctuary works expanded into multiple sectors and it has been fantastic to see the involvement from different organisations to promote change within their work.

We would like to thank the National Lottery Community Fund for their ongoing support and guidance, as well as Wiltshire Community Foundation, South Swindon Parish Council, Co-op Communities Fund, Respond & Adapt, Postcode Local Trust, Nationwide and Magic Little Grants for their invaluable funding contributions.

This year, the political narrative around seeking sanctuary and migration has become ever more polarised. We will continue to speak to and work with all in our local community, including local MPs and Councillors from all political parties, as we endeavour to make our community safe, welcoming, and inclusive for all.

OUR CHARITABLE OBJECTS

Swindon City of Sanctuary is a registered charity (with CIO status) in Swindon, we seek to build a culture of welcome, inclusion and support for everyone in Swindon, with a focus on people who are seeking sanctuary from war and persecution.

Our work focuses on celebrating our diverse town. We do this by bringing people and organisations together, raising awareness and campaigning for fairness and inclusivity.

Our Charitable Objects are:

- To advance the education of the public in general, especially in Swindon, about the issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum.
- To provide, or assist in the provision of, facilities and activities for recreation or other leisure time occupations, in the interests of social welfare, with the object of improving the conditions of life of those persons who have need of such facilities
- The promotion of equality and diversity for the public benefit, by promoting activities to foster understanding and engagement between people from diverse backgrounds
- The prevention and relief of poverty



OUR VALUES

Trust:

We understand that those we support and collaborate with deserve and expect our trustworthiness in the ways we work and the decisions we take. We are open and approachable and take safeguarding seriously in personal and confidential matters.

Inclusive:

Being inclusive is essential in our work and for us this means we begin with consideration and care in each individual encounter. We support each person with lived experience of seeking sanctuary in a consultative, empowering and respectful way, showing encouragement and patience. We actively and equally value the contribution that all of our staff, volunteers, trustees and those who benefit make and involve them meaningfully in decisions about our work.

Objective:

Our kindness is not lessened by our objectivity and clarity, which are important in the way that we conduct our work internally and externally. We are non-judgmental, fair and focused. We ensure to work ethically in all we do and who we work with, as well as considering our environmental impact as a charity.

Informed:

Across our organisation we stay informed and knowledgeable of the circumstances and laws affecting people with lived experience of seeking sanctuary, and the issues around hate crime locally. We use our knowledge and awareness proactively to challenge preconceptions, to share knowledge across Swindon and to help create better understanding between us all.

Inspirational:

We use our creativity and innovation to make our expressions, our connections and our outreach work as educational and inspirational as they can be. We hope to inspire others to actively help make Swindon a welcoming place for all who live here. We believe in generous leadership and that the best work relies on different experiences and perspectives. We seek out the best ideas, wherever they come from.

Positive & Committed:

We are strongly committed to work, educate and campaign in a responsible, coordinated and strategic way. We aim to focus on the positive, overcoming challenges and hostility by finding common ground. We respond with activities that bring our community together and enable us to listen and learn from each other, in order to break down stereotypes and resentment driven by fear.

SECTORS AND AWARDS

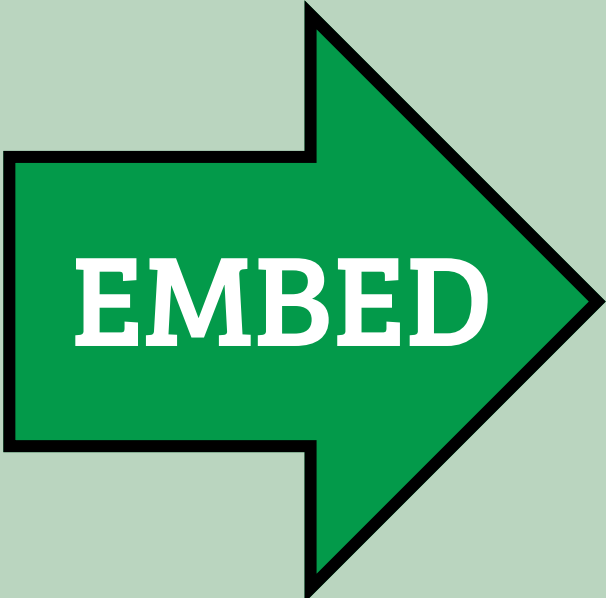
People seeking sanctuary experience high levels of hate crime, racism and prejudice which can lead to people feeling isolated within their communities. To combat this, we work to bring people and organisations together to raise awareness and increase understanding about seeking sanctuary and migration.

One of the ways we do this is through our Sanctuary Awards programme, where we collaborate with organisations to promote welcome and sanctuary within their contexts. The Sectors of Sanctuary Awards are awareness raising programmes that give a platform to the voices of people seeking sanctuary so that they can be heard by those who might otherwise never hear them.

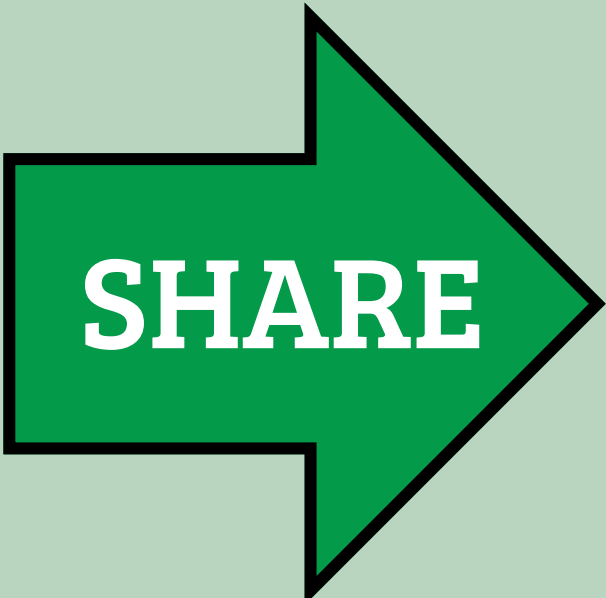
The awards are grounded in three core principles: Learn, Embed, and Share.



We encourage individuals and organisations to learn about the experiences and challenges faced by those seeking sanctuary. This involves deepening understanding, dismantling stereotypes, and fostering empathy.



We work to embed practices that support people seeking sanctuary in every aspect of our community, from housing and education to health and employment.



We aim to share positive stories of sanctuary, celebrating contributions made by people seeking sanctuary and amplifying their voices.

SECTORS AND AWARDS

This year, we worked in three sectors:

BOROUGH OF SANCTUARY

In September, the Swindon Borough Council Cabinet voted to start the process of becoming a Borough of Sanctuary.

What does this mean in practice?

- ➡ It's a formal awards process that recognises and rewards good practice and progress in promoting welcome.
- ➡ It recognises a borough-wide commitment, signalling to people seeking sanctuary that Swindon is a place where they will find safety, opportunity, and community.
- ➡ It promotes a whole council approach to embedding 'welcome' and 'sanctuary' in the services they offer.
- ➡ It's also an opportunity to work in partnership with other councils and boroughs across the UK who share similar values.

Since the full Council motion in September, Swindon Borough Council has been working towards gaining their award by forming a Steering Group to choose the direction of the work. This work has included working with local groups, charities and people with lived experience. This award will take up to 18 months to achieve, we welcome and commend Swindon Borough Council's commitment to promoting welcome and setting an example for other communities to follow.

LIBRARY OF SANCTUARY

Public libraries play an important role in welcoming people seeking sanctuary in our communities. The Library of Sanctuary award recognises and celebrates the libraries that go above and beyond to show solidarity and welcome. Throughout the years, Swindon Central Library has supported our work, and we were delighted when we began discussions about gaining Library of Sanctuary status. This year, initial work began to identify what was already happening that could contribute to the award and consider and outline areas where welcome and inclusion could be embedded.

ARTS OF SANCTUARY

The Arts play a vital role in creating a culture of welcome, challenging the status quo and shaping the kind of society we hope to live in. Art and creativity can inspire new ways of thinking and feeling, helping ordinary people understand the realities for those making difficult journeys. Arts Stream of Sanctuary is all about celebrating the arts organisations working with refugees, telling stories of migration and bringing communities together.

Our Pilot programme sees Create Studios pave the way for the first Swindon Arts organisation to work towards their award. This year, Create Studios signed the pledge to show their affiliation as a City of Sanctuary Supporting Organisation and work began on curating their application.

Our Sectors work has been made possible by an award from National Lottery Community Fund.

WE'RE OPEN FAMILIES

This year, in Refugee Week we launched We're Open Families - a space for families in Swindon to come together, make connections and celebrate the languages and rich culture of the town.

Swindon has a large population of families who have migrated here and are looking to make connections and build a community. We're Open Families was developed with this in mind, to create a space where families could meet with a focus on literacy and play. Each session focuses on a different theme – nature, food, countries of the world – and features a crafting activity, story time and singing circle. The themes spark conversations about what makes us different and what brings us together.

The fortnightly sessions provide an opportunity for families to learn more about other families in our community and make bonds with others. Families are actively encouraged to participate in the sessions – sharing stories and songs from their home countries in their home languages is especially successful and enjoyable.

Our We're Open Families library events are also an opportunity to collaborate with organisations wanting to meet with families to hear their thoughts, offer signposts to services and make connections with communities in Swindon. This year we collaborated with two organisations. In the first year, we ran 21 sessions, with over 15 languages spoken, building a community who regularly attend each session.

I absolutely enjoyed each session. It was great to see parents and children enjoying the process of creating, and working together to create.

21

Sessions run

544

Visits to We're Open Families

295

Individual visits from children

15+

Languages spoken at the sessions



WE'RE OPEN COMMUNITY EVENINGS

We're Open community evenings celebrated running for seven years in the community, with 365 individual visits. We're Open's purpose is for those who attend to feel welcomed, to decrease the isolation and loneliness felt by many and create a community where those who are new to Swindon feel able to build a life here.

As a Home Office dispersal town, Swindon has a large community of people seeking sanctuary with many living in hotels and it is more important than ever to provide spaces where people feel safe, valued and included. The current asylum system is not a fair one. It builds barriers which seek to create an "us versus them" narrative. We work to create spaces where local residents and people seeking sanctuary can meet and make connections, with the aim of breaking down barriers and celebrating our differences in the essence of cultural diversity.

We ran 50 sessions over the course of the year, with seven local musicians providing wonderful entertainment throughout the year. A highlight was our Refugee Week BBQ with 35 visitors sharing food, music and conversation. We could not do what we do at We're Open without the support of our brilliant, dedicated volunteers who gave 378 hours of volunteering to the project.



Evening sessions



Visits to We're Open



Hours of volunteering



I feel happy when I come and meet people. We like playing games and beating the volunteers at chess!

FAMILY ACTIVITY BOXES (FABs)

One way we support welcome and inclusion in the community is through our FAB Fusion boxes. They are specially designed to support teaching staff in their spoken and written literacy work with children from multilingual families, who are proficient in their home languages but new to English. The children may have recently arrived in the UK having fled danger in their home countries; some may be caught in the complexities of the asylum system.

The purpose of the boxes is for children to feel supported and nurtured. The resources in each FAB Fusion box invite children to play, read and learn together. Fusion means realising that embracing and celebrating our differences can connect us and bring us together without losing our individual identities. FABs are loaned out to schools at no cost; schools can borrow up to three boxes for at least one term. They help embrace and celebrate cultural diversity and to build partnerships with parents, families and carers.

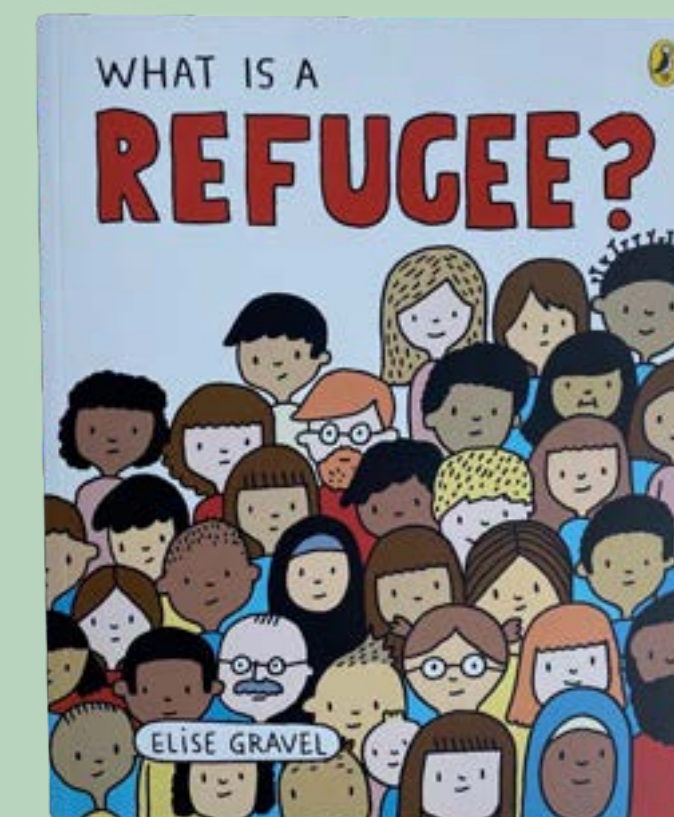
This year, our FABs Co-ordinator developed six themes using her lived experience of seeking sanctuary to create powerful resources with a story. The six themes are:

sanctuary to create powerful resources with a story. The six themes are:

- Cultural Diversity
- Emotions
- Environment
- Journeys
- Welcome
- Home

This work has been made possible by an award from Postcode Local Trust, a grant giving charity funded entirely by players of People's Postcode Lottery.

The resources are beautiful and so well organised, I can see much time and effort, plus love, has been put into it all.

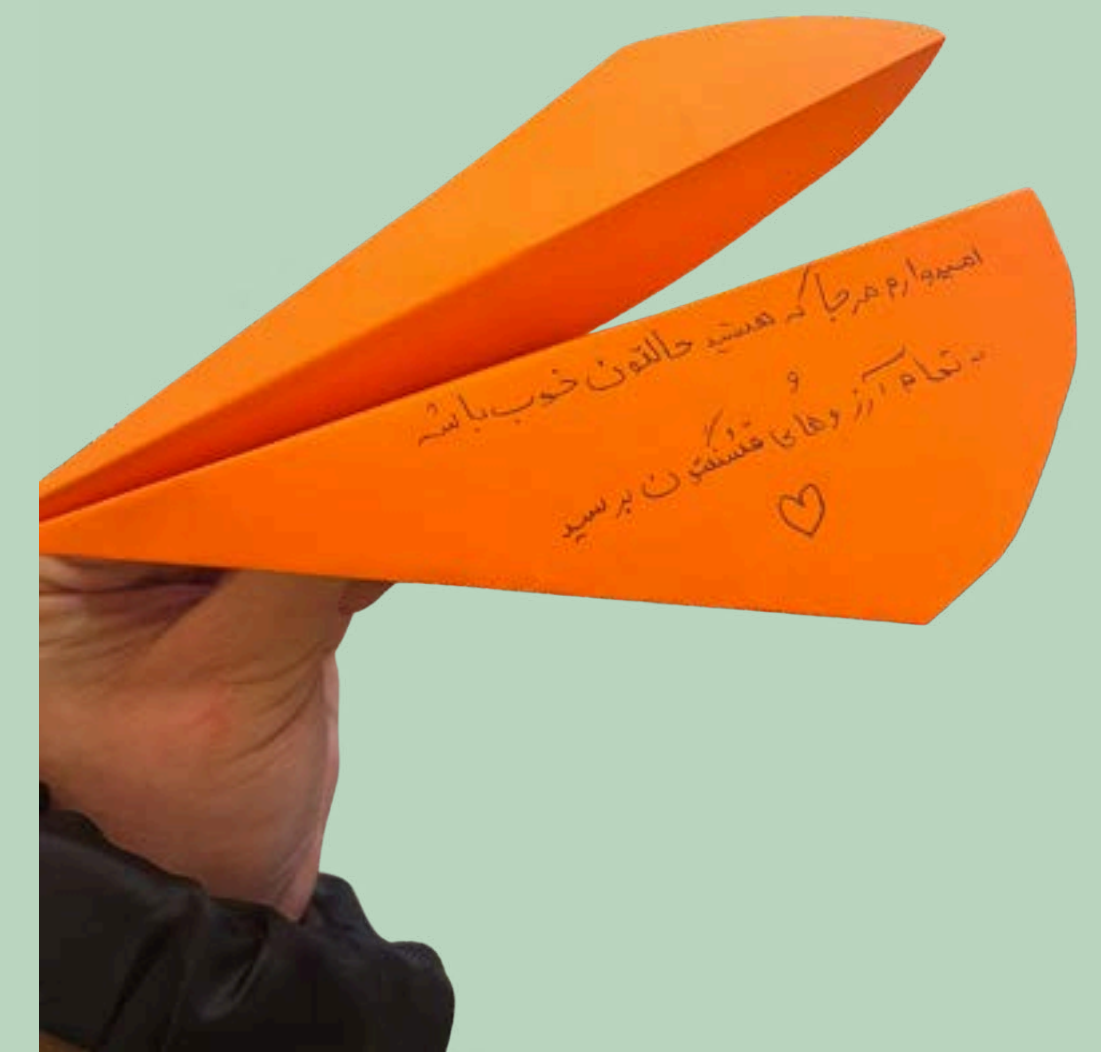


SPEAK UP FOR SANCTUARY

As a campaigning and awareness raising organisation, education of the community remained at the forefront of our work. With the rise in negative and divisive rhetoric surrounding the experiences of people seeking sanctuary, it was more important than ever to speak up for sanctuary and to call others to do the same. We used email and social media campaigns to keep the community updated on current events and legislation including campaigning for the closure of the Bibby Stockholm.

Together With Refugees

One again this year, Together With Refugees was our main campaigning focus. Fill the Skies with Hope campaign involved sending to Members of Parliament, orange heart-shaped paper planes, filled with messages of love, welcome and hope for a fairer system. It presented a great way to engage the community with the issues facing people seeking sanctuary, to listen to others' opinions and to challenge misinformation. We worked with local schools, held events in the community, promoted via social media and encouraged as many people as possible to join in writing messages of welcome and understand the importance of showing welcome to people who are new to Swindon.



SANCTUARY IN THE COMMUNITY

Before the local council elections in May 2023, we called on all parties to publicly pledge their commitment to Swindon becoming a Borough of Sanctuary. In September 2023, the new Cabinet voted to start the process of becoming a Borough of Sanctuary. This will see Swindon Borough Council join a movement of local authorities, around the country, working to create a culture of welcome, inclusion and empowerment for people seeking sanctuary. This is a welcomed and positive move towards embedding welcome widely throughout services in Swindon.

In the lead up to the 2024 national elections, we wrote to all prospective candidates to meet and discuss their position on migration, seeking sanctuary and welcome. We met with Sir Robert Buckland in November and Heidi Alexander in February, both were positive meetings where we asked what they are doing to counter negative public and media perceptions and increase welcome. We discussed Bibby Stockholm, with increased concerns that some people seeking sanctuary in Swindon would be moved there. Bibby Stockholm is Home Office accommodation with documented outbreaks of disease, mistreatment and increased poor mental health for those housed there. A friend of SCoS with lived experience of seeking sanctuary put it best, "People forced to move there are looking for two things: community and safety. The residents want to meet other residents which will be difficult in the cramped conditions as the barge approaches capacity. They want to meet local people and to become part of a community. This will be almost impossible." We continue to call for safe, fair accommodation.

People forced to move are looking for two things: community and safety.



Local elections
are happening
tomorrow



We have called on the political parties taking part in the local elections to agree to Swindon Borough Council becoming a Council of Sanctuary – whoever takes power after May 4th.



Welcome to Swindon.
It's great to have
you here.
Cllr Jim Robbins
Leader of
Swindon
Borough
Council

IN THE COMMUNITY

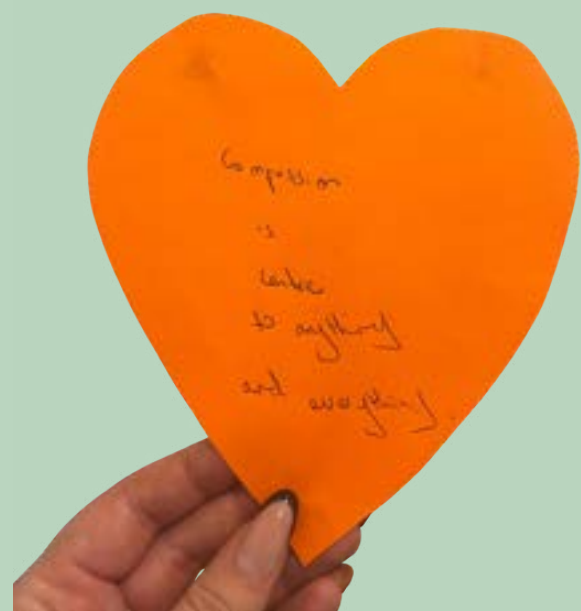
Our work focuses on awareness raising and education of the community around the experience of people seeking sanctuary in Swindon. Throughout the year, we met with members of the community in different settings to promote welcome and foster discussions about why diversity is so important.

Refugee Week 2023

Refugee Week is an important moment for us to celebrate the contribution of people seeking sanctuary in the UK and promote better understanding of why people seek sanctuary. It's an opportunity to create a programme of arts, cultural and educational events and activities that embody that year's theme. With Compassion as this year's theme, we led a series of events, open to all who wanted to join. The first, Compassion in Action Exhibition at Swindon HUB which showcased art by people with lived experience of seeking sanctuary, and contributions from the local community including poems from students at Lawn Manor Academy and art from the community.

The rest of the celebrations included opportunities for the public to get creative and participate. The launch of We're Open Families at Swindon Central Library had arts, crafts and stalls, recipe exchanges and Arabic dual-language story time, while the BBQ at We're Open focused on music and shared conversations. It was a fantastic week filled with celebration, awareness raising and joy. "Compassion is inclusion"

I greatly enjoyed contributing 3 pieces of art called Compassion Entwined. The twine used in these pieces represents the strength of working together. Each piece shows how compassion towards others builds stronger communities.



Celebration of Welcomes– Lawn Manor Academy

For a third year running, Lawn Manor Academy hosted Swindon's Celebration of Welcomes evening in Refugee Week. Following an introduction about their role by some of the school's Welcome Ambassadors, the audience of invited VIPs in the community, family, friends and staff were treated to brilliant dance, music and poetry performances from Lawn Manor Academy students. There was a delicious array of world food tasters too, representing the exciting cultural diversity of Lawn Manor Academy. A small exhibition introducing Swindon City of Sanctuary and featuring School of Sanctuary work at Peatmoor Primary School, was also on display.



SCHOOLS

Our work in schools continued to be one of our greatest successes and has grown from strength to strength - it's been a busy year for our Swindon schools!

Schools of Sanctuary Awards

School of Sanctuary awards are grounded in three core principles: Learn, Embed, and Share and make up a large portion of our Awards work. We are delighted to share that Lawn Manor Academy became Swindon's first secondary school to achieve their School of Sanctuary Award in July 2023. As part of the progress our Schools' Volunteer Lead trained a small group to be the formal Appraisal Panel to consider the application including Councillor Adorabelle Shaikh, Swindon Borough Council Cabinet Member: Education and SEND. We thank all Panel members for their support and commitment. Head of PSHE and School of Sanctuary Lead Staff Member commented, "Now that the school has been officially recognised as a School of Sanctuary ... the staff and Welcome Ambassadors would like to see Lawn Manor Academy work towards being recognised as a Centre of Best Practice for Welcome and Inclusion in Swindon."

Sharing of cultural diversity is very much in the ethos at Lawn Manor. Their Celebration of Welcomes evening, now in its third year, is a more formal event bringing people together from beyond the immediate school community. Lawn Manor key staff have developed a programme of welcome in their school calendar. Culture Days are part of this calendar. These days feature students and staff wearing traditional dress from their home countries, which provides an opportunity to share languages, stories, food, music and culture. Having appointed 50+ Welcome Ambassadors with some taking on lead roles, the school shows its continued commitment to the greater responsibility of promoting the values of a School of Sanctuary both in the school and in our community.

Throughout the year, work began and continued, with two more secondary schools and one primary school preparing to put together formal applications for their School of Sanctuary Award in 2024-2025.

In October we led Swindon Schools of Sanctuary Pilot Scheme Review with Peatmoor Primary School, looking at how the process could be adapted to make gaining a School of Sanctuary Award as simple and accessible as possible.

While we worked closely with six Swindon schools, 26 schools received our Swindon Schools of Sanctuary Network News Updates throughout the year. We welcome schools to work with us in many different capacities, not just through our Schools of Sanctuary Awards programme.



School of
Sanctuary
Award



Schools directly
connected with
our work



Swindon schools'
receiving updates
on our work

CONNECTIONS IN EDUCATION

We spent the year welcoming new and well-embedded connections within the education sector in Swindon. We welcome working with any place of education wanting to find ways to embed and promote welcome and inclusion into their work.

Swindon New College

In September, we attended Swindon New College Freshers’ Fair, where we shared with the students our campaigns and highlighted ways in which they could be empowered to use their voices and speak up for sanctuary. We had a good response from the young people, signing up to learn more about our work.



Supporting Teaching Colleagues through CPD
Our Schools’ team ran 7 CPD sessions (Workshops and Meetings) over the course of the year. In June and July, we provided two wholestaff CPD sessions at Peatmoor School. These Workshops and Meetings enabled colleagues attending to disseminate the information gained to the wider school community.

Primary and Secondary Schools PSHE Network

Our Schools of Sanctuary Team was invited to present at both the Primary and Secondary Schools PSHE Network Meetings, in January and February 2024. Engaging directly with a wider range of schools was an opportunity to expand our small network of schools committed to promoting welcome and belonging in their settings.



SEND Leaders’ Conference

Volunteer Schools of Sanctuary Lead and FAB Fusion Co-ordinator ran a stall at this event, where the theme was Resilience and Beyond. Broadening Swindon City of Sanctuary’s reach and visibility was a key priority of the day. Our stall invited conference delegates to learn about our work with a particular focus on the new development of Phase 3 of the FABs: FAB Fusion. The Conference was attended by 100+ delegates; throughout the day, approximately 50% of delegates stopped to talk with us. More than 10 delegates signed up to be kept in touch with our work.

Refugee Week 2023

In 2023, we connected with four schools leading up to, and during, Refugee Week 20th-26th June. Following a workshop of ideas led by Volunteer Schools of Sanctuary Lead in March 2023, each of the schools followed their own projects around the RW theme of Compassion in Action. These included, poetry and art competitions, assemblies and PSHE lessons. Some of this work was shared at the successful and moving Celebration of Welcomes event hosted by Lawn Manor Academy and attended by over 100 guests.



CREATIVE CONNECTIONS

This year, we worked in coproduction with some of Swindon's great creative and community organisations.

Voices of Welcome – a Conference for Young Campaigners and Changemakers aged 10-18 years.

This Conference emerged from a fertile seed of an idea as a result of both Swindon's nationally accredited Schools of Sanctuary having successfully created groups of young people, Welcome Ambassadors, keen to be advocates, allies, campaigners and changemakers for promoting and developing the culture of welcome, inclusion and belonging already clearly established in their school settings. In collaboration with Create Studios the conference led to two inspirational campaigning sessions for the Welcome Ambassadors, which focused on how to use digital media for maximum impact, and offering to follow-up with film-making support for the Welcome campaigns that emerged from the Conference. Other campaigning support at the Conference came from the Send My Friend Campaigning Lead, Rebekah Lucking, who inspired the Welcome Ambassadors in her sessions to think big and campaign with passion. 18 young people attended, creating powerful and passionate campaign ideas. Thank you to Create Studios for their in kind support making the conference happen.



Stitch Your Story

We were delighted to collaborate with local Artist Jo Beal and Create Studios on the opportunity to reflect on our personal histories within the context of Swindon and our place within our home town. We were one of eight community groups creating a large-scale banner that visually represented elements of each of our Swindon stories, which were further explored through short filmed interviews collated by the Create Studios' team. It was an opportunity for us to discuss what Swindon means to us, and the positive impact of migration in Swindon. Over fifteen Swindon City of Sanctuary staff, volunteers, friends and visitors contributed to the banner, leading to a wonderful piece of art that celebrates the rich diversity and stories of Swindon. The event was open to the public as part of the Heritage Open Days trail.



WE COULDN'T DO THIS WITHOUT YOU

Our volunteers are at the heart of the charity, we simply could not do what we do without them. Our team of 30 volunteers support at our community events, with Sectors of Sanctuary work and with fundraising events. All new volunteers meet with our Volunteer Coordinator and take part in training before attending sessions. Our training provides a safe space to talk about language, rights and the politics of migration. Volunteers are given advice on how to approach negative narratives and conversations about migration and seeking sanctuary. We ensure we have the highest standards of safeguarding, health and safety, and hygiene.

\ This year, volunteers worked on a variety of projects: supporting our community events; organising BBQs; exploring opportunities to collaborate with other organisations. We cannot thank our wonderful volunteers enough – their compassion, empathy and desire to promote welcome inspires us every day!



30

Volunteers

8

Volunteers with
lived experience
of migration

3

Volunteers with
lived experience of
seeking sanctuary

750+

Hours of
volunteering

I have been a volunteer for Swindon City of Sanctuary since it began seven years ago. The ethos of welcome and inclusion within the local community and celebrating its diversity is at the heart of what we do. Working on projects that encourage this generosity of spirit is, for me, very rewarding.

IN THE NEWS

It was a busy year for us in the local and national media. We are grateful that the majority of coverage we received, was positive and in support of our work. Not only has this coverage aided in highlighting our work and promoting welcome, but it has also contributed to increasing awareness around the issues faced by people seeking sanctuary in Swindon.

BBC - <https://www.statewatch.org/news/2023/may/uk-joint-civil-society-solidarity-statement-on-the-illegal-migration-bill/>

Swindon Link - <https://swindonlink.com/news/sanctuary-welcome/>

Swindon Link - <https://swindonlink.com/news/city-sanctuary/>

Swindon Link - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-wiltshire-66877977>

Swindon Advertiser - <https://www.swindonadvertiser.co.uk/news/23796763.swindon-council-cabinet-set-approve-refugee-sanctuary-network/>

Swindon Advertiser - <https://www.swindonadvertiser.co.uk/news/23818450.refugees-know-safe-see-dmj-tower/>

While we have been lucky to experience overwhelmingly positive support for our work, negative comments and opinions shared online show that we still have a substantial journey ahead in order to ensure that all feel welcome. We do not let a small minority of negative voices impact our work or sway our vision, but these instances highlight the need for our work to continue in the current divisive political landscape. We will continue to bridge divides and continue to encourage the community to support people seeking sanctuary.



THANK YOU

Our work relies on the generous support from donors and grants. We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all who help us plan for the future through monthly direct debits.

We are continually grateful that the funding from the National Lottery Community Fund grant, now in its third year, allows us to carry on with our work.

A special thank you to the charitable funds and trusts outlined in the financial statement - without your support, we simply would not be able to achieve all the incredible things listed in our report.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

				2022-2023	2023-2024
	2022-2023	2023-2024			
Income	49,191	63,479	Wages	28,574	81,535
Expenditure	37,999	97,194	Other Operating Leases	-	-
			Office Rent & Room Hire	3,895	7,443
			Insurance	396	379
Major Funders	2022-2023	2023-2024	Telephone	862	1,122
National Lottery Community Fund	48,557	33,898	Computers & software	-	469
			Postage and Stationery	-	-
			Sundry expenses	3,551	5,073
			Accountancy fees	720	780