

Preston City of Sanctuary full network meeting held on 18th July 2022 at  
Preston City Council, Town Hall, Room A from 5:45 to 7:30pm

## Notes

### 1. Welcome, Introductions, and Apologies for absence

2. the situation of the 170 sanctuary seekers housed in the Leyland hotel-  
Kevin Conway from LCC information given out at the meeting about the situation for the families  
in the hotel in Leyland

The sanctuary seekers living in the Best Western hotel in Leyland

\*All new arrivals registered with a GP and to receive a health check.

\*We've worked with Pupil Access and many children have had a school application completed, with the site now picking up any new arrivals and some children already accessing a place in school. SRBC has been assisting with uniforms where it can but there might be a gap there for some.

\*EAL team also trying to source a tutor for some face to face provision at the site for the children that aren't accessing schooling.

\*early years play area established but this has proved too difficult to maintain, although there are certain items available for the children. The Library has also worked closely with SRBC at the site.

\*Host regular meetings with health, LA, Housing Provider and UKVI.

\*Maternity pathway established at the site.

\*0-19 team visiting the site regularly.

\*In conversation with a wellbeing families worker about activities for the families over the summer.

\*working with CVFS (including Preston City of Sanctuary, whom we met with about ESOL) on a range of provision.

\*COVID vaccination pathway in place and one round of vaccinations completed, but the percentage already vaccinated at the site was already quite high.

\*SRBC hold a weekly face to face session at the site.

\*People at the site are in an 'initial accommodation contingency hotel', so the overwhelming majority of these clients will be moved on to properties outside of Leyland, but most will be moved within the North West region as a whole. People shouldn't receive a decision whilst at the hotel but there has been a few Ukrainian families that have been granted leave outside the rules. SRBC housing have been working with them.

\*If people wish to discuss further or ask any questions they can contact  
[Gerard.swanson@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:Gerard.swanson@lancashire.gov.uk)

Kevin also talked about what the Resettlement Team are doing, especially regarding the Afghan families living in Preston. Housing the large families is extremely difficult but the one year contract on current accommodation is ending so it is becoming urgent. Families are going to have to compromise on location and perhaps size of property and are going to find benefit rates will not

cover rent on the size of properties they would like.

3. We discussed the proposal to set up a Lancashire Refugee Council and the development of refugee led community organisations in Preston. There was a general consensus this was a good move, though there was some scepticism about the feasibility research survey. We welcomed representatives of Afghan, Sudanese and Ukrainian communities.
4. Tanja a Ukrainian now living in Preston with a host family. Tanja will outline the situation in Ukraine and talk about her experience of the resettlement scheme and life in Preston. Unfortunately the technology for the presentation failed to work. We apologised and agreed to fix a time for the online presentation to go ahead via Zoom.
5. Review of Refugee Week events: We shared a brief account of the main events, picnic, sanctuary cook along, film night, wellbeing day.. all of which went well and had been well attended. Thanks to LCC for funding and to all the organisers of events.
6. UCLan University of Sanctuary update: We received a progress report
7. Feedback from the visit to the Kairos Housing project in Blackburn: A number of us had been to see this project and were impressed with the way it offers housing solutions for refused asylum seekers and those who have been granted leave to remain but have not yet found housing. A small charitable project but well connected to all the other provision in Blackburn.
8. Rwanda deportations and other campaigning: We reminded everyone of the awful policy environment and the need to keep campaigning
9. Kite flying event on 20th August in Avenham Park .. We all ought to support this.
10. COS regional and national agendas. The National Conference is in Bradford on 21<sup>st</sup> September. Dawn and Greg have booked places.. We agreed £100? Financial support for COS nationally
11. Hannah Mitchell..gave us a brief introduction to Hope for Justice and its work to counter modern day slavery and suport victims. They offer training on anti slavery issues and we agreed we would take them up on this offer for a zoom event in the autumn.