

SANCTUARY IN CHICHESTER

VISION STATEMENT

MARCH 2017

Our AIM:

SiC is a group of like-minded local people committed to making Chichester a welcoming place for refugees and asylum seekers. We do this by using our diverse skills, energy and enthusiasm to:

- increase knowledge and tolerance of issues relating to refugees and asylum seekers
- understand and meet the needs of refugees and asylum seekers (locally/ both locally and further afield)

We have strong values of inclusivity, collaboration and transparency.

What do we DO?

We work with others

To provide information on our website, to the local media and directly to individuals and groups. This includes:

- Positive publicity
- Factual information/ myth-busting
- Being visible in Chichester (attending local events, undertaking school visits, engage with local businesses)

Our aim is to encourage dialogue and understanding within our local community

We link with other groups including:

- Local voluntary groups, charities and churches
- Chichester District Council and WSCC Nearby groups working with refugees e.g. RRN, Worthing4Refugees, Eastbourne Networx.
- Other Sanctuary groups
- Groups supporting those in camps e.g. 'Don't Hate, Donate'.

We want to collaborate with, support and learn from others involved in the same work.

Fund-raising to:

-Meet the needs of local refugees and asylum seekers.

- Provide emergency assistance to those in temporary camps abroad.

-To develop resources to enable our volunteers to work effectively.

We work with refugees and asylum seekers

We provide Social support:

We seek to assist integration and build confidence by accompanying refugees and asylum-seekers to medical and official appointments.

Language teaching:

We provide structured 1-1 language support and informal opportunities to practice English. We work with Asphaleia to complement their tuition.

Practical help with immediate needs:

We will provide a drop-in centre to provide general advice and support to refugees, asylum seekers and our volunteers.

We support statutory and contracted providers:

We work closely with the Foyer to identify the specific needs of their residents and to design activities to address them.

Accommodation:

We will actively seek to source properties for the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme and supported lodging for Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers aged 16 and 17.

We want to develop our capacity to act as a lifeline in hard times:

We work with local supermarkets to redistribute unsold food and will develop our capacity to provide emotional and practical support in times of hardship.

Mental Health Support and help for Transition:

We will help people to access mental health and other specialist support and will share our concerns with NHS staff in line with our safeguarding policy.

We will meet religious and cultural needs:

By building links with faith groups locally, we will identify ways to work effectively with them. We will promote mutual understanding of our culture and that of our refugees and asylum-seekers.

As members of Sanctuary in Chichester:

We are not a talking shop, nor are we idealistic or foolishly optimistic

We are compassionate, active, committed, resilient, diverse, skilled, energetic and ambitious.

We want the people of Chichester to understand and support our work.

We want refugees and asylum seekers to feel welcome, safe, valued, supported, hopeful and to be able to contribute.

Lobbying and Advocacy

We will work constructively to influence those whose decisions and actions impact on the lives of asylum seekers and refugees. We seek registered charity status and will work within statutory guidance in relation to any campaigning or advocacy we undertake.

Where members of Sanctuary in Chichester want to lobby against national or local decisions or policy, this will be done in their capacity as private citizens. No-one, including members of the committee, should claim to speak for Sanctuary in Chichester as an organization.