Libraries of Sanctuary

Assessment criteria

All applicants for Sanctuary Awards are expected to meet the following minimum criteria:

1. Offer a positive vision of a culture of welcome and hospitality to all by making a public commitment to the City of Sanctuary vision of welcome through endorsement of the charter, through becoming a supporting organisation and signing the local group pledge of support where relevant.

2. Celebrate and promote the welcome and contribution of people seeking sanctuary through your library/organisation’s website and social media and other channels, committing to a culture of welcome.

3. Promote understanding of sanctuary issues, especially by enabling the voices of people seeking sanctuary to be heard directly through a whole organisational approach to staff awareness-raising about what it means to be seeking sanctuary and providing opportunities for the settled community engaged with your library to also understand the need for a humane asylum process.

4. A nominated member of staff/team as a contact point for sanctuary queries/people seeking sanctuary. This should be clearly communicated and be easily accessible and the staff member must be appropriately trained.

5. Wherever possible, engage people seeking sanctuary in decision-making processes at all levels and in all activities – including the three-year plan or the embedding into existing plans of how the library service aims to build on the award and continue to develop the culture of welcome.

6. Create opportunities for relationships of friendship and solidarity to develop between local people and those seeking sanctuary through active engagement with the wider community, including people seeking sanctuary and the local City of Sanctuary network and/or refugee support network if there is one.

7. Identify opportunities for practical action to inform and support communities, and work on common cause issues with communities (particularly through a commitment to ensure information and referral services are equipped to assist people seeking sanctuary and minimising barriers to their accessing your services)

8. Recognise and encourage partnership-working and network development across localities through active engagement with the national Libraries of Sanctuary Stream.