

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.**