CLWYD CITY of SANCTUARY

(was FLINTSHIRE City of Sanctuary until July 2025)

https://clwyd.cityofsanctuary.org/

About - Clwyd City of Sanctuary

Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Charity No. 1186789

Annual Report for the Period 1st January to 31st December 2025

CHAIR'S REPORT DECEMBER 2025

INTRODUCTION

Becoming Clwyd City of Sanctuary

During 2025, our City of Sanctuary (COS) group marked the 7th anniversary of our launch in 2018. Initially called Synergy, we became Flintshire City of Sanctuary in 2019 and, as reported in our 2024 Annual Report, in 2024 we began merger discussions with our neighbouring COS group in Denbighshire.

The decision to merge Flintshire COS and Denbighshire County of Sanctuary to form Clwyd City of Sanctuary was taken at meeting of the Trustees of both groups on 13th January 2025. It was agreed that the new group would be called Clwyd City of Sanctuary (CCoS) and that a submission be made by FCOS to change the name of the charity. The groups would also meet to agree what changes would be needed to the FCOS Constitution for the new group.

On 23rd July 2025, the FCOS Trustees reviewed, approved and signed a Formal Resolution requesting the name of the charity be changed to Clwyd City of Sanctuary. In July, the change was approved by the Charity Commission. In September 2025, a new Constitution document for CCoS, approved by all seven Trustees of the new group, was submitted to and approved by the Charity Commission.

Throughout the process of forming our new group, shaping our plans and priorities, and becoming a formally affiliated member of City of Sanctuary UK, we received guidance and support from Leyla Beattie (City of Sanctuary UK's Regional Coordinator for Wales and N.W. England), to whom we are very grateful.

We also want to recognise the significant contribution to Flintshire City of Sanctuary and throughout the formation of Clwyd City of Sanctuary by Teresa Carberry in her roles of Chair and Co-Chair, respectively. Teresa was driven by compassion for others and a failure to accept prejudice and barriers. During 2025, Teresa was told that her illness was terminal yet her determination and resilience inspired and enabled us to reach higher and achieve more.

Action planning and goals for 2025 & 2006

Over two quarterly meetings in June and September, the Trustees developed an action plan for CCoS using City of Sanctuary UK's plan template and based on the charitable objects in our constitution.

Following provocative and inaccurate information that was circulated via social media regarding planned use of a refurbished building in the centre of Mold (a small Flintshire town), and the campaign of antimigrant protests and hostility began in the summer and continued throughout the year, the CCoS Trustees agreed a plan with the priority focus on our first objective **'to educate people in N. E. Wales on issues relating to people**

seeking sanctuary'. This action plan was submitted to COS UK as part of CCoS's application for formal affiliate group status.

The group also identified other essential requirements for the new group, including updating/renewing policies and safeguarding training.

It was agreed that previous activities and initiatives undertaken and supported by the Flintshire City of Sanctuary and Denbighshire County of Sanctuary groups prior to the merger were aligned with CCoS's charitable objects and would be continued by the new group, with the potential for their application to the wider N.E. Wales area to be evaluated in future. These include befriending, the Flintshire Youth Programme and workshops with the Carriageworks Art Studio in Denbigh.

Working Partnerships

CCoS has maintained successful and productive working partnerships with the following organisations during 2025:

- Theatr Clwyd (a Theatre of Sanctuary)
- Together Creating Communities (TCC), a community organising group based in Wrexham
- The Ethnic Youth Support Team (EYST), our partner organisation for the Flintshire Youth Programme
- Flintshire County Council (FCC)
- N.E. Wales Community Cohesion
- Flintshire Local Voluntary Council
- Mold Town Council

ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

A. FLINTSHIRE YOUTH PROGRAMME

General Overview

Throughout 2025, FCOS/CCoS continued to partner the Ethnic Youth Support Team (EYST) to deliver a range of activities, trips and educational and other support for the young people (aged 8-16 years) of families with lived experience of seeking sanctuary in Flintshire.

The programme is delivered by EYST, led by an experienced and qualified JNC Senior Youth Worker with support from a Youth Support Family Engagement Worker and volunteers (all undergo training and DBS checks). All activities within the programme are undertaken under the responsibility and safeguards of EYST.

In Quarter 3, following a pause while the new venue was sought and sessions halted, the youth club moved from Sealand to a Flintshire County Council Youth Club facility based in Greenfield, along the Flintshire coast. This is a more accessible location for the

young people, many of whom live in the area. Being an established FCC centre, the new venue also provides opportunity for cooperation and integration with existing users.

CCoS Role
CCoS provides funding for the transport of the young people and supporting family members to the youth club events and outings. This is possible thanks to grants received from the Post Code Lottery, Gwynt-y-Mor and The Moondance Foundation.

In early 2025, EYST reported that they were facing a gap in their funding for this programme mid-year. In March, FCOS/CCoS made a one-off grant to EYST of £7,197, funds restricted for use in the Youth Programme.

Members of CCoS's Board of Trustees attended the youth club as volunteers during the year. For the Trustee befriending lead and this has been an invaluable opportunity to work alongside the Youth Support Family Engagement Worker for the programme.

Activities, training and collaborations in 2025

The programme in Flintshire delivered:

- 221 attendees over 19 sessions (sessions were suspended while a new 'hub' venue was sought).
- 38 family contacts
- 6 family visits
- 1 family 'drop-in' clinic at Flint library
- Emergency first aid and food hygiene training for two youth workers
- Volunteer training and DBS checks for two new volunteers
- 2 members of the programme attended meetings with the Wales Social Justice Secretary and Quality Mark Teams, and presented their reflections and relevant experiences
- One young person shared their positive experiences to 40 professionals at the BME CYP conference (BME Children and Young People's Project — EYST)
- Regular 'homework club' support was provided to 4 young people by retired teachers

New interactions and collaborations:

- Celebration of Eid with the First Minister of Wales and partner organisations (see below)

Teamwork in action ✊🏾🙏

A beautiful afternoon with 54 young people and families from Greenfield, Clwyd City of Sanctuary, EYST, Flintshire Youth Service, and our brilliant friends at Campfire Cymru.

We came together to celebrate Eid with bunting making, dancing, delicious food, jewellery, henna, and plenty of joy. A real reminder of what happens when communities, caregivers, and sanctuary seeking families are supported to connect, create, and feel at home.

Grateful to everyone who showed up, shared their energy, and made the space so warm and welcoming. This is what collaboration looks like in action.

@campfire.cymru

#Coproduction
#Strongertogether
#EYST2026
#Youth_Provision_Flintshire
#campfirecymru

- Sports session with the Welsh Rugby Union Young Leaders
- *Mind Our Futures* (Home - Mind our Future North-East Wales) for a full day trip, and enjoyed kayaking, zip-line, archery, abseiling, climbing & caving (see photographs below).













- Together with *Mind our Futures, Senedd yr Ifanc, Denbighshire Youth Service, Conwy Youth Service* and Wrexham EYST, attended a Young Leaders Summit on ‘Empowering Young People’s Voices’
- Joined a group of young people from Wrexham EYST for:
    - Beach trip to Prestatyn
    - North Wales Police Engagement Day at their training centre and HQ
    - Trips to North Wales castles
- Closer working ties with Mold Alun School and Flint High School
- Meetings and consultations with Campfire Cymru on a programme on outside education and campfire cooking



Feedback and reported outcomes:

- Written, video, photographic, innovative communications (e.g. via rugby balls) and conversational feedback is overwhelmingly positive; trips were enjoyed, with the great majority saying they would attend similar in future.

  Of particular interest were the outcomes of the outdoors activity day. This was originally planned to be held over 2-days and be residential, but plans were revised to address parents' cultural concerns for their daughters. The revised format ensured that families were very happy and positive about the staff and the safety of their daughters; two families subsequently booked their own family holidays at this venue and gave positive reports to other parents. It was, therefore, a great success.
- Respondents say they are happier than previously
- Case notes on performance and feedback show that 2 of the homework club group are much happier with their school progress
- 2 young people have expressed interest in joining *Mind Our Futures*
- 2 young people have expressed interest in, and are following, police career pathways
- Individual support was provided to young people, when requested and authorised
    - to pursue his/her dreams in Cheshire, when no option as available in Wales
    - to move schools (one case)
    - to enrol in college (4 cases)

- By helping to set up activities for the youth club and assisting the youth workers, when appropriate, one young person in the programme has grown in experience and confidence and has now gained 4-hours/week paid work as a youth support worker with another local charity. A different collaborating group has also indicated that when they have any paid opportunities, they would encourage this young person to apply.

The potential to expand the programme into Denbighshire is being explored.

Objectives supported:
To provide or assist in provision of facilities and activities for recreation/other leisure 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;
To promote equality and diversity for the public benefit by promoting activities to foster understanding and engagement between people from diverse backgrounds.

B. BEFRIENDING: In 2025, our befriending initiatives largely centred on assisting adults and young people address challenges or, as appropriate, signposting them to available resources and support. We also encouraged members of our community in being good neighbours and undertaking simple acts of kindness. There are now church, community and other groups in N.E. Wales who contribute to making our counties 'a place of safety and welcome', even though many asylum seekers supported by the local council are housed in Liverpool due to shortage of accommodation locally. For example, one group of befrienders knit warm hats for new arrivals, another supports people with regular where they are giving guidance and coaching as they adjust to living in a new environment.

During the year, the Trustee who leads CCoS's befriending work included the following:

- Volunteering at the Flintshire youth club sessions to meet a wider group of families and young people, especially those newly arrived in the area. This led to stronger contacts with Flintshire families and earlier contact with new families, at a time when their need for a friend or advice is greatest
- Joint visits/informal meet ups together with a member of the EYST with lived experience. These visits were warmly received.
- Invitations from FCC to families to participate in its Refugee Week event at County Hall (see below)
- Problem solving and enabling introductions, e.g., assistance in sourcing household and other needs, supporting learning to drive

Objectives supported:

To provide or assist in the provision of facilities and activities for recreation or other leisure time occupations in the interest of social welfare with the object of improving the conditions of life for those persons who have need of such facilities

The prevention and relief of poverty amongst those granted refugee status and those seeking asylum in North-East Wales.

To promote equality and diversity for public benefit by promoting activities to foster understanding and engagement between people from diverse backgrounds

C. STANDING UP FOR SANCTUARY

Refugee Week 16th-22nd June 2005
Theme: 'Community as a Super Power'

Due to the efforts of the FCOS and DCoS teams in preparing for the merger during the critical planning time for Refugee Week, it was clear from early in the year that it would be best for each group to undertake its own planning, ideally working with local partners to celebrate the week. Our teams were involved in the following initiatives to honour and celebrate the strength, resilience and courage of people who have fled their homes to escape conflict or persecution:

- Flintshire County Council (FCC) Community Celebration
  On the recommendation of FCOS's Chair, the Council hosted an invitation-only event in the Council Chamber on Wednesday, 18th June. The event was well-attended and very successful.
  The programme of music, song and dance, with choirs from primary schools and the local High School and included performances in Ukrainian by refugees from Ukraine who have settled in our community. Some young people shared their experiences of life since coming to live in Flintshire.
  It was very pleasing to see some children of resettled families, who were very young when they arrived in Flintshire, participating with their school friends.

  The formal event was followed by a buffet that included international dishes. Overall, the event was a successful and joyous celebration.

- World Music Day 21st June
  To celebrate World Music Day coinciding with Refugee Week, the N.E.W. (North-East Wales) Choir performed at Errdig, a National Trust property near Wrexham. The choir sang *Harbour* by Anna Tabbush, based on the Syrian Refugee Crisis of 2015. Performers include Ukrainian singers and a Trustee of DCoS.

- Carriageworks (Denbigh) Creative Workshop Series
  Supported by a grant from Migrant Help, this art gallery hosted a series of workshops that engaged the local sanctuary communities, including support with transport costs to attend.

Resources and education

As mentioned above under 'Action planning and goals for 2025-2026', hostility and aggressive anti-migrant protests began in Flintshire over the summer and continued

during the rest of the year. Similar hostility then followed in other parts of North-East Wales.
These developments reinforced CCoS's commitment to work on its first charitable objective **'to educate people in N. E. Wales on issues relating to people seeking sanctuary'** and the following initiatives were explored and begun:

- Promoting City of Sanctuary UK Awards
  School of Sanctuary Awards: There is interest from or potential for some schools in Flintshire and Denbighshire to become Schools of Sanctuary. Although coordinated centrally by COS UK, CCoS Trustees will follow up on initial interest.

  FCOS worked with Theatr Clwyd in becoming a Theatre of Sanctuary in 2021. The theatre is seeking to renew its award in 2026 and remains an active partner of CCoS.
  Twn o'r Nant, the theatre in Denbigh, is a possible candidate.
  Other award categories being explored are shops, cafes, libraries, colleges and universities of Sanctuary.

- Stand Up for Sanctuary Tool Kit
  We have received a set of printed materials and access to a webinar that enables people with no campaigning experience to challenge the rhetoric, have true facts and figures, and change the story. Other easy-to-use information pieces are planned.

- Safe and Welcoming Places
  FCOS previously planned to set up 'places of sanctuary' in Mold and began speaking to owners of cafes and shops to explore interest. The aim was to have a sticker that could be displayed in the window or door to indicate places of welcome to tall. The COVID pandemic but this idea on ice but in later 2025, it was agreed that we should relook at it, in view of the negativity and antipathy being pushed. Initial design ideas for a sticker were discussed. Sadly, the initial FCOS concept of using the COS UK logo is no longer an option because of a campaign that targetted COS UK during the year.

Objectives supported:

To advance the education of the public in general, especially in North-East Wales, about the issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum

To promote equality and diversity for public benefit by promoting activities to foster understanding and engagement between people from diverse backgrounds

Stephen John Lewis
Dorothy Elizabeth Litherland

Clwyd City of Sanctuary

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From: 1st January 2025 to 31st December 2025

Charity name: Clwyd City of Sanctuary (formerly Flintshire City of Sanctuary: Working with Synergy)

Charity registration number: 1186789

Chair of CCoS Board of Trustees

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	**(I) To advance the education of the public in general, especially in North-East Wales, about the issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum.** **(II) 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 to improve the conditions of life of those persons who have need of such facilities.** **(III) The promotion of equality and diversity for the public benefit by promoting activities to foster understanding and engagement between people from diverse backgrounds.** **(IV) The prevention and relief of poverty amongst those granted refugee status and those seeking asylum in North-East Wales.**
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	**See Chair's Report above.**
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	**The Trustees of CCoS have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission of England and Wales on public benefit in their administration of the charity.**

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	**See Chair's Report above.**

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	**This is the sixth year of operations of the charity.** **The charity focused on continuing its activities in families and youth work and doing more to educate the public on issues relating to refugees and asylum seekers - see the Chair's Report above.** **This incurred overall expenditure of £11,163, of which £348 paid for the running of the charity. The expenditure was greater than in 2024 due to the grant made to EYST to ensure the continuation of the Youth Programme during a gap in its funding.** **At the year-end, cash-in-bank was higher by £4,277, from an opening balance on 1st January 2025 of £7,167.** **However, without further funding the charity may be unable to undertake new projects but does have sufficient unrestricted funds to cover normal outgoings.** ***Dorothy Elizabeth Litherland*** ***Treasurer***
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	**The charity does not hold reserves.**
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	**See above**
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	**The income of the charity is too small to justify the holding of reserves. When further income is needed, it is obtained by funding applications made to government and/or charitable bodies. If funding is not obtained its activities are scaled down appropriate to remaining funds.**
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	**Not applicable.**
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	**Not applicable.**

Additional information

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	**In 2025 CCoS received charitable grants totalling £15,372 from three NGOs**
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	**The principal risks are as follows:** • Inability to source continuing funding of its operations due to budgetary restrictions in government and charitable organisations. • An incident creating major reputational damage to the good name of the charity.

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name	No.
FLINTSHIRE CITY of SANCTUARY	1186789

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date	to	Period end date
	01/01/2025		31/12/2025

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Restricted grants	-	15372	-	15372	4566
General grants and donations	68	-	-	68	68
Sub total *(Gross income for AR)*	68	-	-	68	4586
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	68	15372	-	15440	4586

A3 Payments

Tuition fees			-		0
Promotional materials			-		0
Activities fees		756	-	756	0
Administrative fees (bank charges)	43		-	42	0
Training	50		-	50	0
Transport		2862	-	2862	4661
Venue costs			-		295
Motoring allowances	0	0	-	0	0
IT expenses (Zoom subscription)	156	0	-	156	156
Charitable grants & donations	0	7197	-	7197	0
Room rentals/venue costs		0	-	0	0
Licenses			-	0	0
Teaching books & stationary		0	-	0	0
Insurance	99		-	99	99
Miscellaneous expenses	0		-	0	0
Sub total	348	10,815	-	11,163	5,016

A4 Asset and investment purchases					
	-	-	-	-	0
Sub total	-	-	-	-	0
Total payments	348	10,815	-	11,163	5,016
Net of receipts/(payments)	(280)	4,557	-	4,277	(430)
A5 Transfers between funds	0	0	-	0	0
A6 Cash funds last year end	3,863	3,304	-		7,167

Cash funds this year end	3,583	7,861	-	11,444	7,167

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank current account			-
	Total cash funds	3,583	7,861	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	None	-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets	None		-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Teaching equipment	Restricted	105	-
				-
				-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)

B5 Liabilities

None		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	STEPHEN JOHN LEWIS	
	DOROTHY ELIZABETH LITHERLAND	