

Appendix 1



City of Sanctuary - Draft Strategy

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Please send consultation responses by 15 December to
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Developing a City of Sanctuary Strategy

1. Bristol is a City of Sanctuary with a long history of welcoming thousands of refugees coming to the UK seeking refuge from war, victimisation or famine who are looking to make a better life for themselves and their families. In 2015 over 1million people have travelled from the Middle East, Asia and Africa into Europe seeking sanctuary. The Immigration Act 2016 has changed the council's statutory duties and the Government has initiated a number of programmes to support specific groups of asylum seekers and refugees from the Middle East and Europe. Bristol City Council needs to decide whether it can support some or all of the Home Office programmes and to agree how these should be managed and monitored.
2. It is therefore timely to deliver the Mayoral Pledge to agree a City of Sanctuary Strategy in consultation with local refugee organisation. This report recommends that the council should support all of the Home Office voluntary projects, which have the potential to fund the management and governance costs for the Home Office projects and to increase strategic capacity to deliver a City of Sanctuary Strategy. Initial consultation with local refugee organisations has identified a number of actions which would improve the infrastructure and delivery of local services for refugees and asylum seekers

What are we aiming to do?

3. Bristol City council aspires to be a welcoming city that has a clear strategic approach to supporting refugees and asylum seekers in partnership with refugee organisations. This report aims to improve resource coordination and planning, both across the City Council and with our key partners.
4. The Mayor is committed to developing a City of Sanctuary strategy to ensure Bristol is a welcoming city for refugees and asylum seekers. The Mayor is keen for Bristol to support a significant number of refugee children from Europe, up to 100 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children and for refugees and asylum seekers to be supported to demonstrate they are an asset and not a detriment for a forward thinking city willing to invest in initial support to enable people to contribution to the city.

The City of Sanctuary Strategy

5. Bristol has a proud history of welcoming refugees and helping them start new lives with hope, security and freedom in the UK. Bristol is a City of Sanctuary and a number of community organisations help support refugees coming to Bristol and continue to support efforts to give a warm welcome to our city's newcomers.
6. A New City of Sanctuary strategy would be led by the Bristol Refugee Forum which brings together community groups and organizations to support refugee sand asylum seekers as they settle in Bristol to support the sharing of community-based knowledge and local strategic planning and improving accessibility to services. The Forum will create an overall Bristol City of Sanctuary Strategy.
7. The City of Sanctuary Strategy, through strategic planning and research initiatives, aims to:
 - Enhance access for refugees and asylum seekers to services and programmes
 - Promote intercultural- and civic engagement

- Encourage welcoming and inclusive workplaces
 - Strengthen the capacity of public authorities to respond to the needs of refugees and asylum seekers
8. As part of developing a City of Sanctuary Strategy, in line with the Mayoral Pledge, we have listened to local stakeholders and drawn on a wide range of sources to identify critical issues and priorities.

	Priorities as identified by organisations	Priorities as identified by UASC
1	Local structure where issues are discussed	Specialist help with immigration status
2	Integration support	Health
3	More support for children and young people	Housing
4	Housing	Wellbeing
5	ESOL	School/college place
6	Health	Money
7	Support Welcome Centre Hub – 5 days a week	Advice
8	Support for families	

What do we need to do?

9. We need to engage with the VCS, civic society, faith communities, businesses and colleges to improve pathways which will accelerate the integration of refugees and asylum seekers. We want to work with others to develop a coherent model with clear stages that can help an individual to find support on arrival (Help to help yourself), to assist with orientation (Help when you need it) and integration (Help to live your life well). We recognise that every individual is different and may need different support and routes. We are setting out priority actions where change is needed to give refugees the best possible chance to gain employment and to improve life chances.

How will we do this?

- We have a strong commitment to supporting individuals and communities to play an active role in shaping, running, promoting and monitoring services. We know this improves the design and outcomes of our services.
- The Bristol Refugee Forum is the local structure where issues are discussed, It is recommended that the forum needs to develop to become the framework for accountability with linkages with governance structures for specific schemes, such as the Syrian VPR scheme.
- Ultimately we are aiming to increase the number of refugees with good educational outcomes and in sustainable employment. We will ultimately measure our success by decreasing destitution in Bristol, in particular for young people

Developing an Action Plan

10. Consultation meetings have been held with Bristol Refugee Rights, City of Sanctuary, Refugee Women of Bristol, Bristol Hospitality network, Refugee Welcome Homes, Night stop, Knightstone housing, 1625 Independent People, Ashley Community Housing, South West Forum for R&AS, the Haven, City of Bristol College, Creative Youth Networks Welcome Wednesdays and Unseen contributed via a questionnaire.
11. Providers are clear about what actions the council, businesses and learning institutions can take to make Bristol a more welcoming city, which includes supporting new arrivals to contribute to the city. More work is needed to discuss the proposals and turn these into an action plan which is owned by the city.

Priority areas for action	Objectives
Local Governance Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To identify a single point of contact for the council • To streamline in house management and governance structures to include all Home Office schemes • To support the Bristol refugee Forum to become the framework for accountability for refugee and asylum issues • Improve sharing of safeguarding knowledge and expertise for vulnerable adults and young people • To increase service user voice and influence on service design, strategic direction and positive publicity • To embed impact on refugees and asylum seekers into equality impact assessments • To pool resources where relevant for example Community Asset Transfer to create a single Welcome Hub for refugee and asylum seeker drop ins.
Integration and ESOL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To work in partnership and succeed in obtaining new Home Office funding for ESOL (announced 4/9/206) and for Controlling Migration Fund (awaiting announcement) • To map ESOL in the city and keep up to date • To diversify ESOL courses to match needs: formal and informal ESOL, ESOL with family learning, ESOL for employment, ESOL and healthy relationships. • To anticipate demand for ESOL accredited courses and better meet demand • To accelerate learning for 50% of ESOL learners who can benefit from e-learning • Share and publish translated information • Better education support/package for schools for new arrivals into school years 10/11. • To work with refugees to design and publish discussion materials on gender roles, healthy relationship and British values to aid effective integration • To work with settled refugees to develop preventative health messages relating to diet, exercise, obesity, preventative check-ups for cancer

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and promote opportunities for settled citizens from similar refugee backgrounds to have a more active role in supporting new arrivals. • Support opportunities for the voices of refugees and asylum seekers to be heard
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To incorporate the needs of refugees and asylum seekers into local housing strategies and plans • Finding it, knowing what the systems are, knowing what's acceptable & not being exploited, understanding the rules for maintaining tenancies • To support social enterprise models of housing provision for refugees and asylum seekers • To harness local expertise and knowledge on social enterprise models • To include destitute asylum seekers in the annual homeless count
Young refugees and asylum seekers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop a pathway for discrete foster care and supported accommodation recruitment for UASC • Be more transparent about outcomes for UASC • To address concerns about lack of legal support for UASC by reviewing current legal support for UASC and improve timeliness and quality of asylum applications before 18th birthdays • Agree SPOC for each UASC for education/college needs • Develop same language/same ethnicity support for newly arrived UASC • Improve uptake of specific and generic youth services for UASC • Improve provision for NEET UASC (awaiting college placements)
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve understanding of managing trauma for refugee communities both for women, men and children and young people to design and commission appropriate service for people who are too complex to have needs met in primary care but who do not meet the threshold for secondary care • To support funding bid to increase capacity for CAMHS

Resource implications

12. However this is against a back drop of significant financial challenges and an anticipated reduction or removal of some council services. There may be some public backlash if new refugees are being supported to live in Bristol whilst citizens perceive their own support to be removed or decreased. It is important that the City of Sanctuary strategy emphasises the voluntary and in kind support which underpins the sector and that refugees are an asset to the city.
13. The local refugee sector require strategic advice, practical support, some grant investment and support with finding property through a community asset transfer and with some additional capacity building it is anticipated that a significant improvement can be made to services which are largely funded through voluntary and charitable donations.

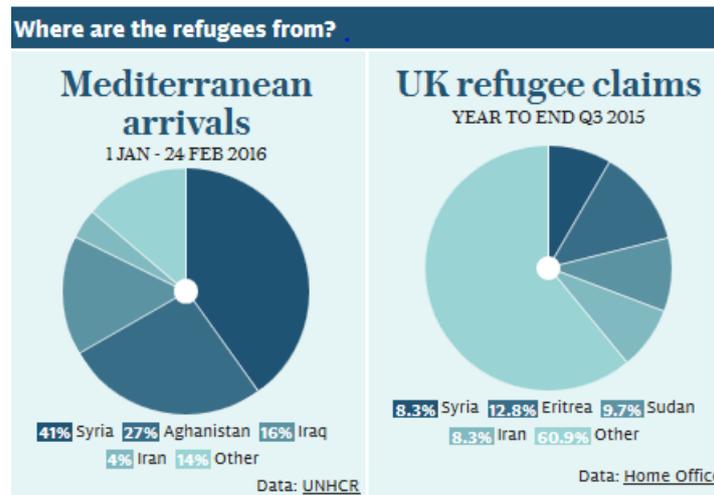
Appendix 2

The draft City of Sanctuary Strategy was co-produced and we would like to give thanks to the following people who gave their time and ideas.

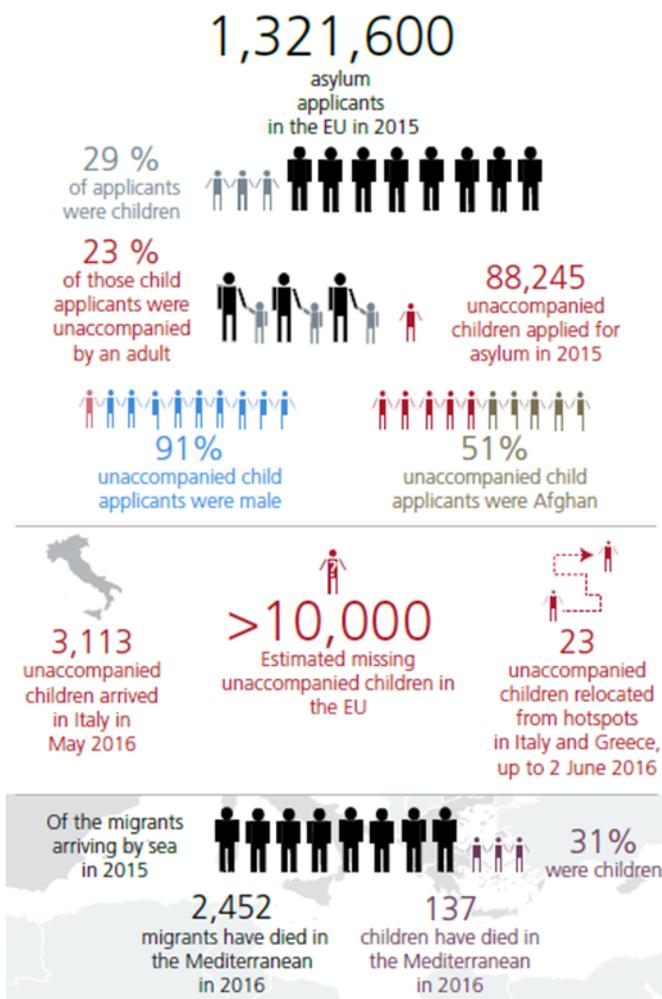
Children's Director for Kent children's services
Community Learning
Homes For good
Calais group
Bristol Refugee Rights
City of Sanctuary
Refugee Women of Bristol
Bristol Hospitality network
Refugee welcome homes
Night stop
Knightstone housing
1625 Independent People
Ashley Community Housing
South West Forum for Refugees and Asylum seekers
The Haven
City of Bristol College
UASC at Welcome Wednesdays
Unseen
Bristol Red Cross
South West Councils
BCC Children's services

Appendix 3 -International Context

The UNHCR reports there are 65.3million people forcibly displaced worldwide, of whom 21.3m are refugees (16m are supported by UNHCR and 5m are Palestinian refugees supported by UNRWA).



<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/04/22/how-the-west-is-underestimating-the-syrian-refugee-crisis-in-7-c/>



Appendix 4 – Bristol Refugee and Asylum Service providers

Local Context

BCC Asylum Team are a casework team. Main duties are statutory assessments and payments. The team works well with the UK Border Agency. The Asylum Team are a specialised team and can offer training on legislation and issues for UASC, and vulnerable asylum seekers and their families.

BCC Community Learning Team: Provide conversation clubs & introduction to ESOL, Read Easy scheme, Adult basic skills English classes, intensive tenancy courses to sustain tenancy, introduction into world of work. Provide ESOL:

- Pre entry (for people with additional needs or a learning difficulty)
- Entry 1
- Entry 2 (functional English to make self-understood)
- Entry 3 (ability to form structural sentences)
- Level 1 (language of persuasion and opinion) and
- Level 2 (reading, writing, speaking, listening)

City of Bristol College ESOL - 932 places are available on part-time ESOL courses for adult learners at the College. Classes are held in the mornings, afternoons and evenings enabling learners to fit their courses around their work and family commitments. Courses are divided into two 18 week semesters, Sept to Feb and Feb to July. Extra Skills classes are also available in addition to the part-time courses to support development of specific skills (i.e. Maths, Writing and Speaking & Listening)

170 places are available on full-time courses for students aged 16-18, ranging from Entry 1 to GCSE. ESOL courses focus on reading, writing, speaking & listening, functional skills maths, ICT and sport. The course runs for 34 weeks over 3.5 days a week. At the end of the year the students take external exams in all elements. Within the scheme of work we focus heavily on employability and the skills and knowledge needed to be part of British society. Refugees and asylum seekers are more likely to be on the ESOL course (Including 24 looked after children from September 2016) and more migrant/European young people are on GCSE courses. The GCSE/ESOL course is run over 2 years. Year 1 includes functional skills English, maths GCSE and core science GCSE. Year 2 includes GCSEs in English, sociology and additional science.

The HOPE is the name of Bristol's virtual school for children in care and is a structure to improve the education of CiC. It enables the attainment, progression, attendance, exclusion and out of school hours learning of children in care to be monitored and tracked to enable support to be put in place where needed. Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children aged 16 and under are registered with the Hope.

City of Sanctuary focuses on supporting asylum seekers and refugees who have been recently awarded status to create a welcoming environment for asylum seekers in the city. City of Sanctuary estimate there are 500 Asylum seekers in Bristol and 150 destitute asylum seekers in Bristol. City of Sanctuary launched with full council support in 2011, activity was co-ordinated through the council's Community Cohesion Strategy 2010. Most recently full council agreed a Destitution motion in January 2014 (to work to relieve destitution in the city for refused asylum seekers) and, at a national

City of Sanctuary conference held in Bristol in March 2015, re-pledged to relive destitution. Eire and Wales are considering becoming areas of Sanctuary.

Refugee Women of Bristol help women to learn English, communicate with people around them, to begin a new life and learn new systems such as (awareness of how to support children's schooling). RWOB supports new arrival women on their emotional journey, creating space to come and share experiences, find out about relevant services, meet women from their own community who can support them outside of RWOB. They also support more settled communities who have less immediate needs and can focus on preventative awareness. There is a focus on health - understanding when children are injured, dealing with emergencies, minimising risks of accidents in the house. Also RWOB invite trainers to make mothers more aware of signs of drugs and gang violence. Parenting classes now include dangers of smoking, drinking, Child Sexual Exploitation, radicalisation and domestic abuse. RWOB help women to keep their children safe and to know who they can approach for help. They provide a drop in with ESOL with crèche and computer club, which works for women whose busy lives make it hard to get ongoing commitment to ESOL.

Bristol Hospitality Network support predominantly people who are refused asylum. They offer accommodation for free on a full board basis and a Solidarity Fund of £10 a week for most vulnerable members. They also offer volunteering opportunities and involvement in a catering business and run a drop in centre on a Monday at Easton Christian Family Centre and which is open to all, offering a hot lunch and support from an advocacy team for destitute asylum seekers, they offer English classes at 3 levels, games, art therapy, barbers shop, and Choir. Advocacy is most important. Destitution is a temporary state between claims. Advocates can help to make a fresh asylum claim, to gather evidence or get an expert witness report from home country to make this happen quicker. Immigration act has removed the obligation of council to house destitute families. BHN can't support families as infrastructure does not allow supported lodgings to host children.

Refugee Welcome Homes provide accommodation for single male refugees who are under 35 who are applicable for HB but not for home choice. Currently have 8 bedspaces. The organisation is run by volunteers. RWH is in discussion with JRF to persuade JRF to invest in Bristol to try to attract social entrepreneur funding to buy 50 houses for RWH. The Houses would be offered to at affordable rent levels for working refugees (not exempt rents) and RWH would pay the social entrepreneur organisation 0.5% dividend and some organisational costs. RWH are in discussion with the Cabinet member for Housing to take on small plots of land and get building company to develop land and offer apprentices for building works.

Nightstop is funded by the Big Lottery Fund from 1 January 2016 for three years, to provide supported lodgings for young people aged 18-25. 15% of people using Night Step are asylum seekers, refugees or refused asylum seekers. In 1st 8 months provided 408 bed nights. 30 families offer their spare rooms for one or two nights or longer.

Knightstone Housing are providing support for the Syrian VPR scheme in South Glos. Social housing is provided and Knightstone are working with landlords to furnish properties, support the refugee families and meet their education and health needs. The Haven will be using the Haven for health support and would like to offer accommodation for UASC, 4 bedroom flat with live in support

1625 Independent People support six UASC from Kent offering 7.5 hours support a week per child. All young people are over 16. The first four young people had been in GB for 3 months or more and

had full assessments but latest two needed to be collected with less than 48 hours notice. The young people needed and initial health assessment for vaccinations and registering with GP and also a looked after children health assessment.

Ashley Community Housing provide 130 rooms for refugees in Bristol, there are 100 people on the waiting list. They provide 220 rooms for refugees in Birmingham, 65 rooms in Wolverhampton, 150 rooms in Newport and Cardiff. Wiltshire and Kent council have placed UASC aged 16 and 17 to live in ACH accommodation. ACH take private accommodation, apply for exempt status and then they buy the properties and let them to refugees and wrap around training. In Bristol they support adults but not UASC. They want to create job opportunities for refugees, creating training opportunities in sectors as identified by the LEP. DWP in Bristol has funded ACH to help people into work - they worked with 40 very disadvantaged people and 50% were in work within 6 months.

The Haven is a 'first stop' clinic for newly arrived asylum seekers in Bristol. It is run on behalf of all three PCTs in Bristol. The Haven provides a comprehensive health assessment for those who have not yet registered with a GP. This includes access to the Haven GP, public health screening and immunisations. They also facilitate registration to primary care practices. Visit every new arrival to Bristol - notified by home office

Unseen provide specialist accommodation and outreach support for victims of human trafficking and modern slavery across the South West of England, many of whom are asylum seekers, refugees or have been refused asylum.

Borderlands Bristol works especially with people seeking asylum in the UK or have become a refugee from other countries; we support people who have been trafficked and trapped in domestic service or the sex industry. Borderlands offers a drop in and courses to assist people to manage their money

RedCross offer 'Move On' advice and advocacy for people newly granted Leave to Remain. Destitution support to destitute asylum seekers and new refugees: £10 per week per person in family, for up to 8 weeks, + 4 weeks in exceptional circumstances, sleeping bags for street homeless clients, food vouchers for food banks, toiletries, and clothes vouchers to be used in Red Cross charity shops, advocacy, referral and signposting to advice (eg at BRR) and temporary bedspaces. Applications for travel assistance for people with families granted visas to enter the UK under Family Reunion, and limited provision assistance with new refugees' Travel Document application. Offering needs assessment for callers, advocacy and signposting to other services for asylum seekers and refugees. International Family Tracing for people to try and re-establish contact with family after separation due to war, conflict, disaster or migration. Training and talks for other organisations on refugees' experiences and needs

Bridges for Communities – Offer a befriending service and cross cultural understanding courses in English and Arabic.

AidConvoy – are setting up a free shop in Bristol to refugees and asylum seekers and working to create a community hub for refugees and asylum seekers in the city

Citizens Uk - The Welcome Committee - offer support to identify landlords who can provide family properties at the local housing allowance rate, source befrienders from local Syrian Arabic and Kurdish communities, and raise donations of money or supplies for the Syrian families on the Vulnerable Persons' Resettlement Programme. Citizen's UK is an alliance of civil society institutions and organise their activities through the local Welcome Committee, membership includes the Red Cross, B-Friend and Bridges for Communities, local Syrian activists, We Care Too (a local organisation which co-ordinates donations from the local Muslim community), Severn Vineyard and Brighter Bristol Storehouse, and Westbury On Trym Baptist Church, but has a much wider e-membership who can be called upon for donations.

Welcome Wednesdays – Creative Youth Network – youth club for unaccompanied asylum seeking children who meet at the Station on Wednesdays at 6pm

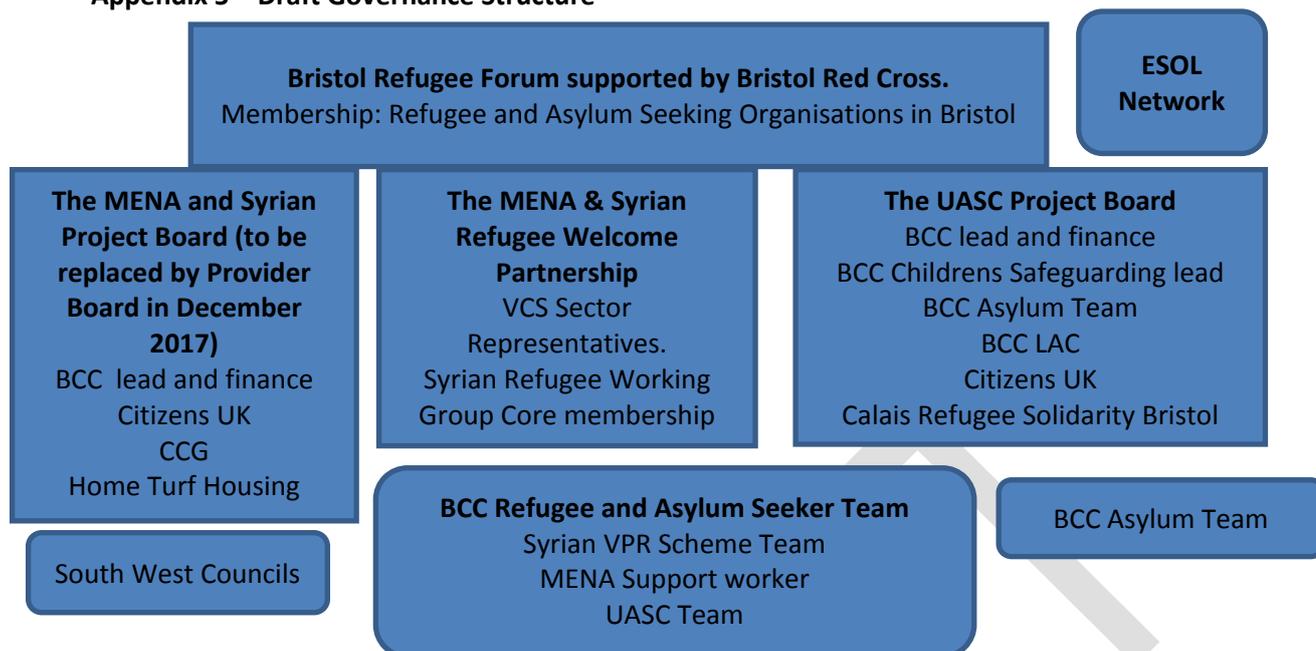
Barnardos – Friday Youth Provision for looked after children, attended by unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

Calais Refugee Solidarity Bristol aims to raise funds, raise awareness and raise the living standards of refugees in Calais as well as campaigning for the rights of refugees and their safe passage through Europe.

Home for Good is a charity which aims to make adoption and fostering a significant part of the life and ministry of the Church in the UK. We are dedicated to inspiring, equipping and coordinating the network of local movements, churches and individuals who are making the Home for Good vision a reality.

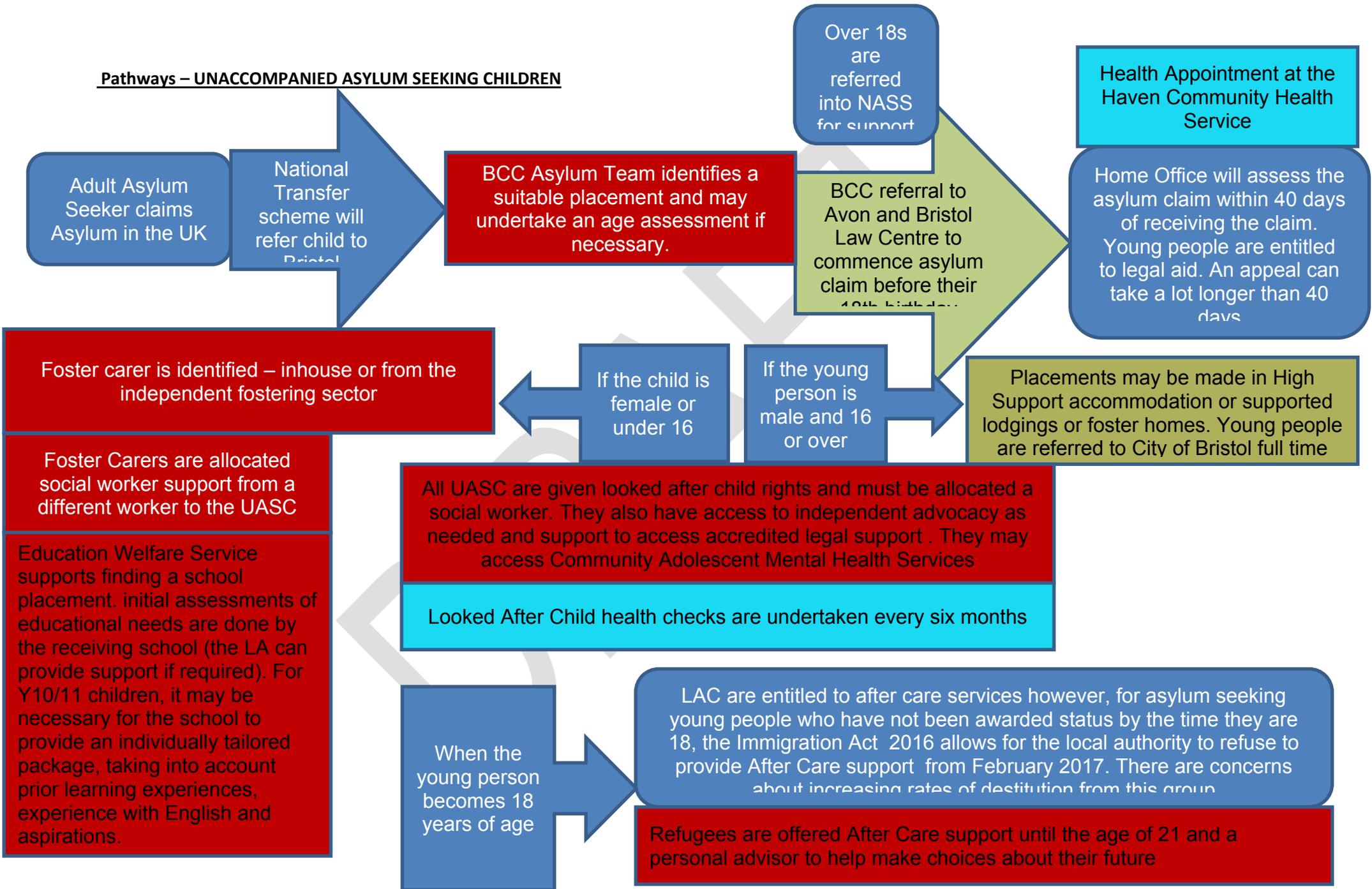
Social Workers Beyond Borders mission is to improve the quality and accessibility of social services for individuals, families, groups and communities affected by social, mental health, economic, and environmental crisis. The philosophy of SWBB is to work within the community identifying needs and developing strategies to meet those needs

Appendix 5 – Draft Governance Structure

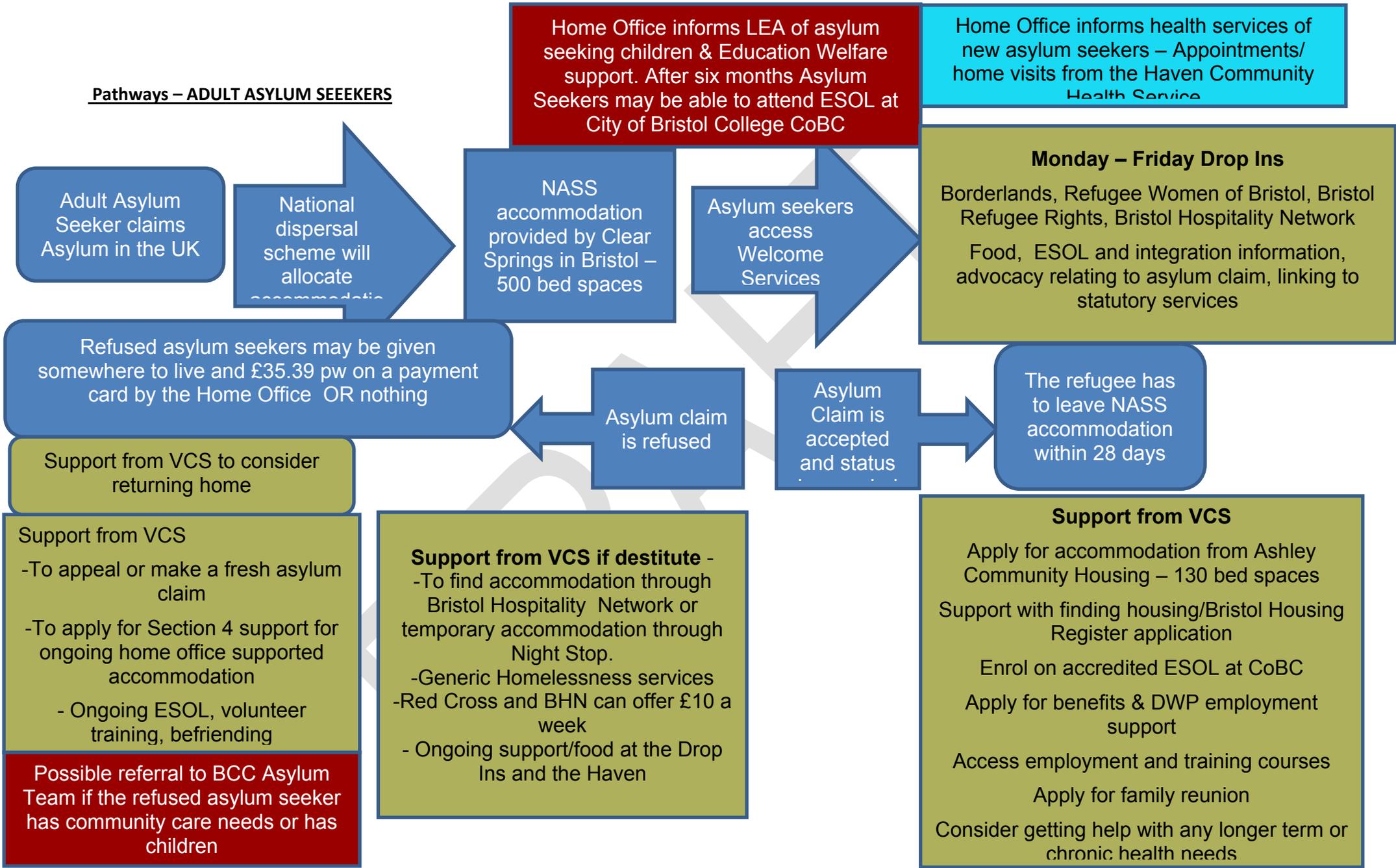


	Objective	Frequency
Bristol Refugee Forum	To co-produce the City of Sanctuary Strategy To implement new pathways for refugees and asylum seekers in the city To map services and share information To co-produce funding bids To oversee the effective delivery of Home Office Projects	Bi-monthly
The MENA & Syrian Refugee Welcome Partnership	To co-produce the MENA and Syrian Refugee Resettlement Programmes in conjunction with Bristol City Council and other Partners by: -offering practical and in kind support to refugees who are part of the programme -scrutinising Project Board decisions and making recommendations for improvements delivering the communications plan -To ensure resettled refugees are properly welcomed and host communities have a positive experience of resettlement	Monthly
The MENA and Syrian Project Board	Responsible for the effective delivery of the project and budget management by: Signing off recommendations from WG on specific families Signing off monthly expenditure reports Producing regular reports for SLT and Forum	Monthly
The UASC Project Board	Responsible for the effective delivery of the project and budget management by: Signing off recommendations from WG on specific children Signing off monthly expenditure reports Producing regular reports for SLT and Forum	Monthly

Pathways – UNACCOMPANIED ASYLUM SEEKING CHILDREN



Pathways – ADULT ASYLUM SEEKERS



DRAFT