

## SSA EQUALITY IMPACT AND NEEDS ANALYSIS

<b>Directorate</b>	<b>Chief Executive's Group</b>
<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Policy and Review</b>
<b>Service/policy/function being assessed</b>	<b>Wandsworth Sanctuary Strategy</b>
<b>Which borough (s) does the service/policy apply to</b>	Wandsworth
<b>Staff involved in developing this EINA</b>	<b>Jamie Fisher</b>
<b>Date approved by Directorate Equality Group (if applicable)</b>	
<b>Date approved by Policy and Review Manager</b> All EINAs must be signed off by the Policy and Review Manager	26/05/23
<b>Date submitted to Directors' Board</b>	

### 1. Summary

**Please summarise the key findings of the EINA.**

The Wandsworth Sanctuary Strategy sets out the Council's approach to supporting and welcoming refugees and asylum seekers into the borough. The strategy has been drawn up in consultation with those with lived experience of being sanctuary seekers as well as partner organisations who work with these groups. This feedback has been used to develop an action plan which sets out the steps the council will take to enhance its support to refugees and asylum seekers.

There is limited data available at the borough level on the refugee and asylum seeking population, and the prevalence of protected characteristics within this population. There are also significant differences in the make-up of different refugee and asylum seeking cohorts and it would not be appropriate to consider sanctuary seekers as one homogenous population. Section three of this EINA sets out what information there is available about the make-up of each sanctuary seeker population and how this compares to the general borough population.

The adoption of the Wandsworth Sanctuary Strategy and action plan will have a positive impact on sanctuary seekers by enhancing the support the Council provides. Further EINAs will be completed as required when actions within the plan are implemented.

### 2. Evidence gathering and engagement.

**a. What evidence has been used for this assessment? For example, national data, local data via DataRich or DataWand**

<b>Evidence</b>	<b>Source</b>
Refugee Population	Council held data and Home Office data
Borough Data	2021 Census

### b. Who have you engaged and consulted with as part of your assessment?

Individuals/Groups	Consultation/Engagement results	Date	What changed as a result of the consultation
Wandsworth Migration Forum	Feedback on experience of working with refugees and asylum seekers, and the Council	15/11/22, 06/02/23	Informed areas for action, and principles underpinning strategy
CARAS ESOL pupils	Feedback from people with lived experience of seeking asylum	16/11/22	
KLS ESOL pupils and homework club attendees		21/11/22	

### 3. Analysis of need

#### Potential impact on this group of residents and actions taken to mitigate impact and advance equality, diversity and inclusion.

Protected group	Findings																																			
<b>Age</b>	<p>The age profile of refugees and asylum seekers varies by cohort and data is not available on all groups. The table below provides data for those populations which are available:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Homes for Ukraine</th> <th>Asylum (partial)</th> <th>UASC</th> <th>Borough</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>0-17</td> <td>21.7%</td> <td>0%</td> <td>100%</td> <td>19.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18-29</td> <td>25.5%</td> <td>40.6%</td> <td>0%</td> <td>18.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30-39</td> <td>23.9%</td> <td>34.4%</td> <td>0%</td> <td>22.3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>40-49</td> <td>15.6%</td> <td>12.5%</td> <td>0%</td> <td>14.9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>50-59</td> <td>8.2%</td> <td>9.4%</td> <td>0%</td> <td>10.8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>60+</td> <td>4.8%</td> <td>3.1%</td> <td>0%</td> <td>14.0%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Refugees and Asylum seekers are predominantly younger, with lower age bands accounting for a disproportionately high number of users compared to the general borough population.</p>		Homes for Ukraine	Asylum (partial)	UASC	Borough	0-17	21.7%	0%	100%	19.5%	18-29	25.5%	40.6%	0%	18.5%	30-39	23.9%	34.4%	0%	22.3%	40-49	15.6%	12.5%	0%	14.9%	50-59	8.2%	9.4%	0%	10.8%	60+	4.8%	3.1%	0%	14.0%
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<b>Disability</b>	<p>The Home Office records data from Homes for Ukraine applicants on whether they have a disability, but no visa applications for Wandsworth list any disabilities, suggesting this is not widely used. Data on disability is not collected for other cohorts. A report by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation in 2002 noted that estimates on the prevalence of disabilities amongst refugees and asylum seekers ranged from 3-10%. Across Wandsworth, 6.5% of the general population recorded that they had a disability in the 2021 Census.</p>																																			
<b>Sex</b>	<p>72.5% of Homes for Ukraine visa holders in Wandsworth were female, and 100% of asylum seekers where data is available are female. This is disproportionately high compared to the general borough population of 52%.</p>																																			
<b>Gender reassignment</b>	<p>No data recorded on refugee or asylum population. In the 2021 Census 0.62% of respondents in Wandsworth reported that they identified with a gender different to their sex registered at birth.</p>																																			

<b>Marriage and civil partnership</b>	Data not recorded locally on refugee or asylum population. In the 2021 Census 33% of respondents aged over 16 reported that they were married or in a civil partnership.
<b>Pregnancy and maternity</b>	Data is provided by the Home Office on asylum seekers who are pregnant, but this has not been included here to avoid disclosure. No data on pregnancy or maternity is recorded for other cohorts.
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>	Data not recorded locally on refugee or asylum population, but there will be a high degree of variability of ethnicity between different refugee and asylum seeker cohorts. Across Wandsworth, the population is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 69.9% White</li> <li>• 10.8% Black</li> <li>• 10.2% Asian</li> <li>• 6.3% Mixed ethnicity</li> <li>• 2.8% Other ethnicity</li> </ul>
<b>Religion and belief, including non-belief</b>	Data not recorded. The general borough population's religion as recorded in the 2021 Census was: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 36.2% no belief</li> <li>• 42.6% Christian</li> <li>• 9.9% Muslim</li> <li>• 2% Hindu</li> <li>• 0.7% Buddhist</li> <li>• 0.5% Jewish</li> <li>• 0.3% Sikh</li> </ul>
<b>Sexual orientation</b>	Data not recorded locally. In 2021, data published by the Home Office recorded that 1% of asylum applications were made on the basis of sexual orientation. Within Wandsworth, 5.19% of the borough population identified as gay, lesbian or bisexual in the 2021 Census.
<b>Across groups i.e. older LGBT service users or Black, Asian &amp; Minority Ethnic young men.</b>	
<b>Socio-economic status (to be treated as a protected characteristic under Section 1 of the Equality Act 2010) Include the following groups:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deprivation (measured by the 2019 English Indices of Deprivation)</li> <li>• Low-income groups &amp; employment</li> <li>• Carers</li> <li>• Care experienced people.</li> </ul>	Refugee status is a category for consideration under the socio-economic status, so all the intended beneficiaries of this strategy would be included in this category. Asylum seekers are not permitted to work or claim public funds whilst they are waiting for their claims to be processed and are dependent on asylum support from Government for financial assistance, which is approximately £9 a week.  In addition, as noted in the Sanctuary Strategy data section, there is a correlation between areas of the borough with higher number of people born outside the UK and areas recorded in the Index of Multiple Deprivation as having higher levels of relative deprivation. This may be interpreted as evidence that refugees and asylum seekers are more likely to be socio-economically disadvantaged than the general borough population.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Single parents</b></li> <li>• <b>Health inequalities</b></li> <li>• <b>Refugee status</b></li> </ul>	<p>As noted above, a large proportion of Homes for Ukraine visa holders are women, with working aged men generally restricted from leaving Ukraine unless they qualify for specific exemptions. This means that many Homes for Ukraine visa holders are in effect temporarily single parents. The available data on this is imperfect, but analysis suggests that at least 15% of Homes for Ukraine groups in the borough are single parent groups.</p> <p>Data on the employment status of Homes for Ukraine visa holders is not recorded locally, however an ONS study found that 61% of adult arrivals were in employment. 68% of those working in the UK do so in different sectors to when they were in Ukraine with difficulties in getting qualifications recognised meaning many are working in comparatively lower income sectors than previously.</p>
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**Data gaps**

Data gap(s)	How will this be addressed?
Disability, ethnicity	An action within the Sanctuary Strategy Action plan is to improve data collection on refugee and asylum status for adult and children social care users.
Gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, sexual orientation	It is not proportionate to collect this data.

**4. Impact**

Protected group	Positive	Negative
Age	<p>The adoption of the Wandsworth Sanctuary Strategy will have a positive impact on refugees and asylum seekers.</p> <p>The actions within the plan are intended to enhance and strengthen the council’s support for these groups. This includes by making it easier to access services, increasing staff understanding of the experience and needs of asylum seekers and refugees, and working more closely with partners in health, employment and the voluntary sector to support sanctuary seekers.</p> <p>Further EINAs will be carried out as appropriate as part of delivering the individual actions within the strategy.</p> <p>As noted above, the refugee and asylum seeking population is</p>	No negative impact is anticipated for any group with a protected characteristic.

	<p>disproportionately young and working age people. They will in particular benefit from the actions identified by Children’s Services in the action plan including strengthening the support to Unaccompanied Asylum seeking Children, promoting awareness of the free childcare offers available, and increasing participation opportunities for young refugees and people seeking sanctuary. Working age people will benefit from the actions drawn up by the Economic Development Office, including the delivery of the Language2 Work model.</p>	
<b>Disability</b>	<p>As above. Sanctuary seekers with disabilities will benefit from the actions identified by Adult Social Care and Public Health to improve coordination with the NHS for supporting refugees and asylum seekers.</p>	
<b>Sex</b>	As above.	
<b>Gender reassignment</b>	As above.	
<b>Marriage and civil partnership</b>	As above.	
<b>Pregnancy and maternity</b>	As Above.	
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>	As above.	
<b>Religion and belief, including non-belief</b>	As above.	
<b>Sexual orientation</b>	As above.	
<p><b>Socio-economic status (to be treated as a protected characteristic under Section 1 of the Equality Act 2010)</b>  <b>Include the following groups:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Deprivation (measured by the 2019 English Indices of Deprivation)</b></li> <li>• <b>Low-income groups &amp; employment</b></li> <li>• <b>Carers</b></li> </ul>	<p>As above. The actions in the plan identified by the economic development office may help socio-economically disadvantaged groups by enabling access to employment and higher paid employment. As noted in section 2, single parent and temporarily single parent families make up a high proportion of sanctuary seeker groups, and this group will be able to benefit from the increased signposting and promotion of the free childcare offer.</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Care experienced people.</li> <li>• Single parents</li> <li>• Health inequalities</li> <li>• Refugee status</li> </ul>		
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**5. Actions to advance equality, diversity and inclusion.**

Action	Lead Officer	Deadline
Please see the action plan section of the Sanctuary Strategy	Jamie Fisher	-