



Application for Sanctuary Award

Name and type of organisation:	Barnsley Libraries – a public library service
Town / City you are based in:	Barnsley Libraries service covers Barnsley, South Yorkshire. This public library service is part of Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council.
Name / position of lead applicant:	██████████ ██████████
Job Title of lead applicant:	Engagement Officer, Barnsley Libraries
Contact (phone no. and email):	██████████ ██████████ ████████████████████
Date of application:	04/09/2024
Name of local City of Sanctuary group if relevant	Barnsley Borough City of Sanctuary

Please put an 'X' in this box if you are happy for your application to be shared with other organisations applying for sanctuary awards	
<p>Please provide a summary of how your organisation engages with people seeking sanctuary:</p> <p>Barnsley Libraries engages people seeking sanctuary through a number of initiatives, including delivering groups, activities and events in libraries, stock in other and dual languages, staff training, delivering outreach, partnerships with local organisations and through our volunteering opportunities.</p> <p>Free, regular groups delivered by library staff and volunteers send out a message of welcome to all to join them, and our weekly Conversation Café gives people seeking sanctuary a safe and informal space to practise speaking English, both with others seeking sanctuary and with the settled community through the valuable contribution of volunteers.</p> <p>We update our stock to reflect the languages spoken in our community and promote books in other languages in our libraries through displays, our social media platforms, with partners and during our outreach activities.</p> <p>Library staff have undergone mandatory training on equality, diversity, and inclusion and belonging, as well as specific training related to sanctuary issues, such as Libraries of Sanctuary training with John Vincent and Conversation Cafe training.</p> <p>Barnsley Libraries regularly delivers outreach to engage with people seeking sanctuary and support them to access our library services by signing them up with library cards, giving an outline of our services and opportunities to attend groups, activities and events and by sharing our translated promotional flyers with them. We reach out to our partners to help support us in our outreach work, often attending their office or drop in spaces to engage with their clients.</p> <p>Barnsley Libraries works with numerous local partners such as Barnsley Borough City of Sanctuary, Refugee Council, and Feels Like Home to support people seeking sanctuary to access our services, to co-produce and deliver projects within the library and to amplify our message of welcome in Barnsley for both the settled community and people seeking sanctuary to see, hear and experience in our borough.</p> <p>Barnsley Libraries engages the local community by hosting exhibitions and events that amplify the voices of people seeking sanctuary, such as the</p>	

'Suitcase of Belonging' exhibition, the 'Stories From Around The World' project and the Multilingual Open Mic night.

Barnsley Libraries offers volunteer opportunities for people seeking sanctuary, helping them gain confidence, skills, and community connections. We have flexible arrangements for references which means that people seeking sanctuary who don't know anyone yet can still join as a volunteer without any pressure for immediate references.

Link to Website page with information about your commitment to the sanctuary vision

[How our libraries support people seeking sanctuary \(barnsley.gov.uk\)](https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/how-our-libraries-support-people-seeking-sanctuary)

Using the 3 principles of the sanctuary award, please reflect on how you have achieved these principles attaching evidence to support your answer.

Learn

Criterion 1:
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

Barnsley Council celebrates the diversity of our communities and employees who come together to make Barnsley a welcoming place.

We recognise that all individuals have fundamental human rights and welcome the diversity of the community living, working and learning in the borough. As an inclusive employer, our workforce reflects the diversity of our borough. We are committed to promoting equality and inclusion, which is demonstrated in our [Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy](#).

We also demonstrate our commitment for all our workforce to learn and understand more about equality and inclusion through the Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging training which is mandatory for all staff in the council to complete every 3 years. All managers have a mandatory manager's version of this training, also to be completed every 3 years.

Barnsley Library service commissioned [REDACTED] to deliver Libraries of Sanctuary training for all staff in the service. This training was a live interactive Zoom call which has been recorded and is permanently available for all new staff to complete. This training is mandatory for all staff and is part of new staff induction training. A total of 74 staff in the service

opportunities for the settled community engaged with your library to also understand the need for a humane asylum process.

have completed the Libraries of Sanctuary training. We also welcomed 2 library volunteers who support our Conversation Café into this training. From this training, the attendees learned:

- To recap what we know about people seeking sanctuary, and deepen this understanding by learning about/reflecting on issues that affect their day-to-day lives
- To look at what it means to become a City of Sanctuary and a Library of Sanctuary
- To relate this to the role of public libraries
- To investigate what we are already doing to offer a welcome, and what we could develop in addition (with a recognition of barriers that sanctuary-seekers may face in accessing and using our services)

Feedback from this training:

██████ – ***It was very informative. I felt like I covered a lot of topics and helped explained them well.***

I think it will help us better understand our customers.

██████ - ***I overall found the training informative and useful regarding understanding our day-to-day customers. I feel I can confidently apply this within my role.***

Library staff have also completed training related to sanctuary issues including Conversation Cafe training with ██████, ██████, ESOL and Diversity Lead/Feels Like Home Group Coordinator. ██████ has extensive experience supporting people seeking sanctuary within Barnsley and has a great awareness of the challenges that face people seeking sanctuary locally. In this training staff gained guidance and advice on successfully delivering a Conversation Cafe for people who would like to practise speaking English in a group as well as gaining an understanding of safeguarding and some of the vulnerabilities and challenges faced by refugees, asylum seekers and minority ethnic groups. A total of 14 members of

staff from Library @ the Lightbox – where our Conversation Café takes place – completed this training.

In addition, 7 members of staff from Library @ the Lightbox also completed training with charity Chilypep to understand how staff and the library service could support young people’s mental wellbeing, including a focus on people who are going through difficult life circumstances, as many people seeking sanctuary often are. All staff have also completed mandatory Mental Health Awareness training.

As well as staff training, we have a Libraries of Sanctuary project team, made up of 6 members of staff from both the Development Team and front-line. We meet, usually once a month, to share updates from outreach and within the library, to discuss opportunities to improve our service for people seeking sanctuary and plan and deliver projects, activities and events. We regularly share updates about our Libraries of Sanctuary work in our Staff Newsletters, Staff Development Days and we encourage staff to be involved in events and activities we offer for Refugee Week. We also share knowledge and information.



LIBRARIES OF SANCTUARY

WHERE WE ARE NOW

Our Libraries of Sanctuary team have been working hard behind the scenes and would like to share what it's all about!

City of Sanctuary UK is a national network who work with groups, organisations and local authorities to encourage inclusivity, solidarity and compassion for people seeking sanctuary in the UK (anyone forced to flee their home).

They have sector networks called 'streams', one of which is a library stream. This stream encourages libraries nationally to extend their welcome to people seeking sanctuary by collaborating with partners, through staff learning and development, self-assessing their current service provision and collaborating with people who have lived experience.

Libraries can apply for a Sanctuary Award which celebrates the libraries who go above and beyond to support and welcome people seeking sanctuary. 18 different library services across the country currently hold a Libraries of Sanctuary Award (over 100 libraries).

The process of applying for an award includes

- Signing an organisational pledge to publicly show support (this was taken to a cabinet briefing to gain support to progress – we now have this support and will have the info on our webpage soon)
- A self-assessment – we are currently working through this, identifying what we currently offer
- An application – we're currently building evidence for this application
- An interview with a panel
- A visit from a panel

If successful, the award would then be valid for 3 years before being reviewed.

We want to apply for this Award as a library service and we have a project group for Libraries of Sanctuary which meets once a month. Our team is made up of [REDACTED]

Recently we've been:

- identifying and collating evidence, including the services and resources we offer day to day, one-off projects and things we've introduced as part of this project work (we've included some of our services and resources in the flyer attached)
- looking for further opportunities to deliver outreach and reach people seeking sanctuary in Barnsley
- maintaining and progressing with our relationships with partners including Refugee Council and those involved in the Multi-Agency Drop-In at Hope House and we attend these as often as we can
- gathering knowledge and information from partners and from reading material to help us understand some of the main barriers for people seeking sanctuary accessing the library service
- looking at ways of being visibly welcoming to all in Barnsley, including getting quotes for pull-up banners
- making plans for Refugee Week – we'll be bringing a dance performance and art installation to Lightbox and will plan more activities soon

We're keen to hear from all staff, your thoughts on the things that make us welcoming and inclusive to people seeking sanctuary and your ideas for things that could help us progress with that. We're also keen to welcome members of staff to our working group for our monthly meetings – so if this is an area you feel passionate about, please get in touch with your Team Leader!

If someone presents in a library and needs support or advice, this page outlines the main partners in Barnsley who can offer detailed support that we can signpost them to.

[CLICK HERE](#)

An update about our Libraries of Sanctuary work in a staff newsletter

As part of our learning process we identified a lead for sanctuary. The library service has purchased a copy of John Vincent's *Libraries and Sanctuary: Supporting Refugees and Other New Arrivals* (2022) which has been catalogued and added to the Staff Library stock. I have read through this book and shared the most pertinent learning outcomes with the project team. This has offered us insight and direction to take action and improve areas of our service for new arrivals and refugees, including staff training and partnership working.

We have also sought out information from partners and colleagues who work with new arrivals, migrant communities and minority groups within Barnsley to identify the top spoken languages in Barnsley. We then had flyers translated into these languages through a professional translation company. These printed translation flyers are available to staff in each library so that they can support visitors to their library. This has given library staff an awareness of the languages spoken in Barnsley.

The flyers are also given out at outreach events by our Development Team and shared out with partners, including our local Welfare Officer for Mears, who has taken these flyers

during her outreach to people's homes when visiting new arrivals. We also learn from people seeking sanctuary during our outreach sessions about the languages spoken in Barnsley. If a language we do not hold is presented to us during outreach sessions, a note is made of this to help inform us of which languages to include in our review of our translated materials, where we will look to add further translated materials to our collection in languages identified.

We engage our settled community in Barnsley to understand the need for a compassionate asylum process by collaborating with our partners on projects that amplify the voice of local sanctuary seekers and share their message with those who otherwise might not hear it.

Through our partnership with Barnsley Refugee Advice Project/Refugee Council, we delivered a touring exhibition across our libraries. The exhibition, named 'Suitcase of Belonging' was first brought to us from Refugee Council in March 2023 and was created by workers, volunteers and clients of Refugee Council. The exhibition aims to raise awareness about refugees and the importance of being accepted and belonging into society. It amplifies the voice of local refugees, who answered questions about life in Barnsley, what they are proud of and what their hopes are for the future.

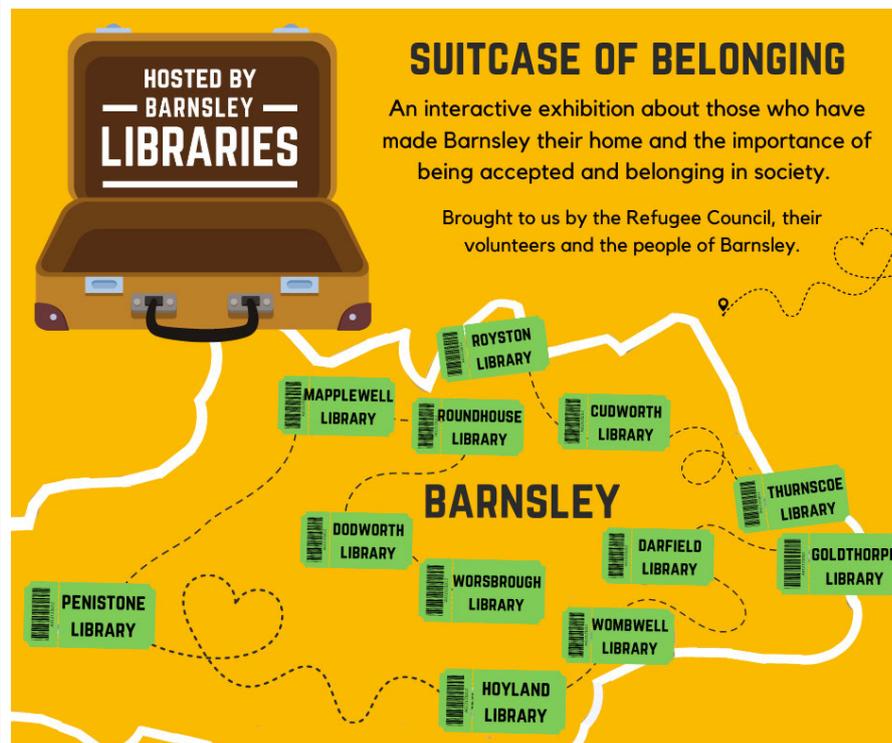
The title of the exhibition (which came from a volunteer of Refugee Council with lived experience of seeking sanctuary) is a representation not only of how most who travel as a refugee come with very few of their own belongings and all the other precious things they have had to leave behind, but is also a representation of displacement and belonging and the hopes, fears and challenges a refugee feels when they travel and settle in a new place.

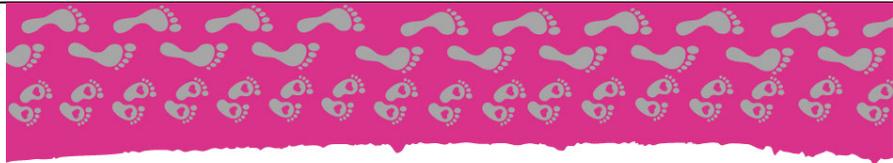
Barnsley Libraries was the first public building to display the exhibition and it was on view at Library @ the Lightbox for several weeks. It then travelled on to our partners at Barnsley Adult Skills and Community Learning, before returning to us for an extensive tour of our libraries. In total it visited 13 of our libraries over 10 months where it was on display for all visitors of the library to view and interact with. We promoted the

exhibition through our social media channels and via printed flyers which were given out at outreach events.

Feedback:

████████ a library visitor: I am a childminder, and when I took my children to Mapplewell library they were interested in the suitcases of belonging.





SUITCASE OF BELONGING

'Suitcase of Belonging' is an interactive exhibition brought to us by Refugee Council, their volunteers and the many residents who have made Barnsley their home. It aims to raise awareness about refugees and the importance of being accepted and belonging into society. It gives voice to local refugees, who answered questions about life in Barnsley, what they are proud of and what their hopes are for the future.

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SUITCASE OF BELONGING TOUR

We first hosted the Suitcase of Belonging exhibition in March 2023 in Library @ the Lightbox and we received fantastic feedback.

The exhibition has also been hosted by Adult Skills and Community Learning in Wellington House, where not only was it on display for all those on courses and those visiting, the ESOL classes also contributed by adding new display materials and designs.

We are delighted to welcome the exhibition back for a tour across many of our libraries. The Suitcase of Belonging will visit:

Darfield Library - end August to mid September 2023
Royston Library - mid-end September 2023
Mapplewell Library - end September to mid October 2023
Roundhouse Library - mid-end October 2023
Thurnscoe Library - end October to end November 2023
Goldthorpe Library - end November 2023 to mid January 2024
plus more libraries throughout 2024

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We are delighted to welcome the exhibition back for a tour across many of our libraries. It has already visited Darfield, Royston, Roundhouse Thurnscoe and Goldthorpe and in 2024 will visit:

Cudworth Library - January 2024
Mapplewell Library - 31st January - 23rd February 2024
Dodworth Library - 26th February - 20th March 2024
Penistone Library - 21st March - 11th April 2024
Hoyland Library - 12th April - 2nd May 2024
Wombwell Library - 3rd-24th May 2024

GET INVOLVED

Visit our libraries and get involved in the exhibition by adding your messages of welcome for those who have made Barnsley their home, and share with us the things you feel you would need in your own 'Suitcase of Belonging'.

What's important to you?

What makes you feel like you belong?

What moments of 'welcome' have you experienced, and how did it make you feel?



**FIND YOUR
NEAREST LIBRARY**



**FIND MORE EVENTS
AND ACTIVITIES**



**FOLLOW US
ON FACEBOOK**

Flyers shared as a printed copy in libraries and during outreach activities as well as shared digitally online.

Some of the materials exhibited are given below. These were created with people seeking sanctuary and the Refugee Council.

How has Barnsley changed me?

I've built close relationships and friendships and a closer community. I can access lots of different things, making my life easier.

My hopes for the future?

I want to be as confident with my English as my native language. I want to support my children in education and continue to encourage them. 2 years has passed and I'm still waiting for a decision from the Home Office.

How it makes me feel living in the UK?

I feel lucky and I feel safe. I no longer have the fear compared with my own country. It's a very special feeling.

What would I change to improve integration?

I would change the asylum process. I would allow for asylum seekers to access college straight away, not having to wait 6 months. Limited opportunities for asylum seekers can force people to become destitute and mentally ill.

Something I am proud about me

I'm very patient and show kindness to people I meet. I love to cook and I love to clean my home. I enjoy working with my hands and I love to read.

How has Barnsley changed me?

I have gained more confidence in myself than I had before.

My hopes for the future?

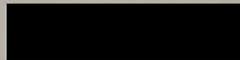
To complete my engineering course and eventually become a lorry driver.

How it makes me feel living in the UK?

I have gained a lot of confidence living here in the UK.

What would I change to improve integration?

To stop racism and to make people feel safe whilst living here.



Something I am proud about me

I am proud that I can take care of my family.

How has Barnsley changed me?

Nothing has changed about me, I'm still the same person.

My hopes for the future?

I want to have a comfortable life with my family and friends and hopefully I will travel around the world.

How it makes me feel living in the UK?

I feel very happy living here in the UK.

What would I change to improve integration?

I would encourage and help people to build relationships with others in the community.



Something I am proud about me

Bringing my family here, being able to work outside of my country and meeting different people.

How has Barnsley changed me?

I've learnt how to budget and support my family on my Home Office support. I'm proud of the friendships I've built, I've met a lot of different people.

My hopes for the future?

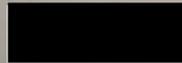
Would like a nice house in a nice area for my family. My dream job is to work for a pharmaceutical company.

How it makes me feel living in the UK?

For the sake of my children I feel 70% more settled and 30% still figuring things out.

What would I change to improve integration?

For everyone to be treated with respect regardless of their skin colour.



Something I am proud about me

I am proud of the friendships I have made here in Barnsley.

How has Barnsley changed me?

Most important change for me is the Home Office giving me leave to remain. I can work, study, travel and I have freedom. I can now have a new life here.

My hopes for the future?

I would love to be a football coach. The difficulty is having to work and needing to study for the next 3 years.

How it makes me feel living in the UK?

I feel more confident and I've learnt about life in the UK. I've learnt how to interact with people outside of my community. Learnt what job is good for me. I've built confidence with speaking English.

What would I change to improve integration?

More college access for asylum seekers and for them to work. Quicker decisions from the Home Office.

Something I am proud about me

I am a strong woman.

How has Barnsley changed me?

Barnsley has improved my confidence.

My hopes for the future?

I hope for a bright and good future for my family and have a good job and a happy future for my son.

How it makes me feel living in the UK?

I feel safe to do anything.

What would I change to improve integration?

To improve people's attitudes about Refugees and how they see them and change their behaviour towards them.

Something I am proud about me

I am a friendly person and I like talking to different people from different communities.

How has Barnsley changed me?

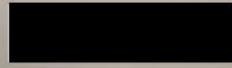
Barnsley helped me to find my first job, and kept me busy with different activities and classes, English conversation groups, going on trips and visiting the library.

My hopes for the future?

I would like to get a house, a better job and improve my English.

What would I change to improve integration?

For more help and support for refugees when finding work.



Something I am proud about me

That I arrived to the UK safely.

How has Barnsley changed me?

Barnsley is a small town, but I have met some good people who has helped me a lot.

My hopes for the future?

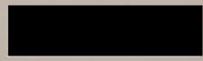
I want to complete my studies as an accountant.

How it makes me feel living in the UK?

I feel very lonely without my family and it also feels cold a lot. But I feel free, I can go anywhere without the fear of fighting like back home.

What would I change to improve integration?

For people to feel safe in their community.





Barnsley Libraries



28 Mar 2023 · 🌐

A new interactive exhibition has opened up in Library @ the Lightbox!

'Suitcase of Belonging' is brought to us by Refugee Council, their volunteers and the many residents who have made Barnsley their home and aims to raise awareness about refugees and the importance of being accepted and belonging into society. It gives voice to local refugees, who answered questions about life in Barnsley, what they are proud of and what their hopes are for the future.

The title of the exhibition (which came from a volunteer of Refugee Council) is a representation not only of how most who travel as a refugee come with very few of their own belongings and all the other precious things they have had to leave behind, but is also a representation of displacement and belonging and the hopes, fears and challenges a refugee feels when they travel and settle in a new place.

What things are important to you? What would you put in your 'suitcase of belonging'?

The exhibition will be with us for a few weeks only, so come along to view and contribute.

[Refugee Council Barnsley Council](#)



👍 7

4 shares



Barnsley Libraries

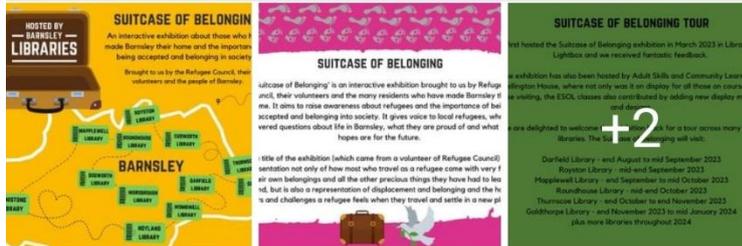
27 Aug 2023 · 🌐



We are delighted to welcome this interactive exhibition to our libraries - 'Suitcase of Belonging' has been loaned to us from our partners at [Refugee Council](#) and gives a voice to those who have made Barnsley their home. It will be in Darfield Library until 14th September before moving on to Royston Library and beyond, so come and see what it's all about and add your message of welcome. 🗨️

<https://tinyurl.com/3vue5zuf>

[#welcome](#) [#suitcaseofbelonging](#)
[#librariesofsanctuary](#) City of Sanctuary
 Sheffield Barnsley Council



👍❤️ 10

2 shares



Barnsley Libraries



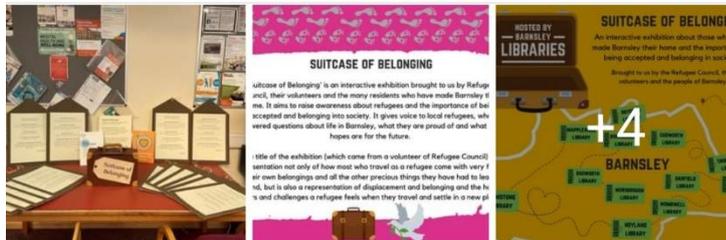
15 Dec 2023 · 🌐

We have been welcoming this interactive exhibition to many of our libraries this year and will continue to do so next year too!

'Suitcase of Belonging' has been loaned to us from our partners at [Refugee Council](#) and gives a voice to those who have made Barnsley their home. It will be in Goldthorpe Library until the New Year before moving on to Cudworth Library and beyond, so come and see what it's all about and add your message of welcome.



[#welcome](#) [#suitcaseofbelonging](#)
[#librariesofsanctuary](#) City of Sanctuary
Sheffield [Barnsley Council](#) [Refugee Council](#)





Barnsley Libraries

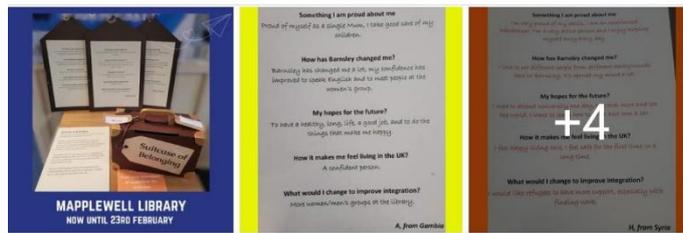


2 Feb · 🌐

The touring Suitcase of Belonging exhibition has landed in Mapplewell Library and will be there until 23rd February before moving off to Dodworth Library.

Loaned to us from our partners at [Refugee Council](#), the exhibition gives a voice to those who have made Barnsley their home. We've added a few entries here for you to read, and if you visit the exhibition you'll be able to add your words of wisdom to the suitcase.

[#welcome](#) [#suitcaseofbelonging](#)
[#librariesofsanctuary](#) City of Sanctuary Sheffield





Barnsley Libraries

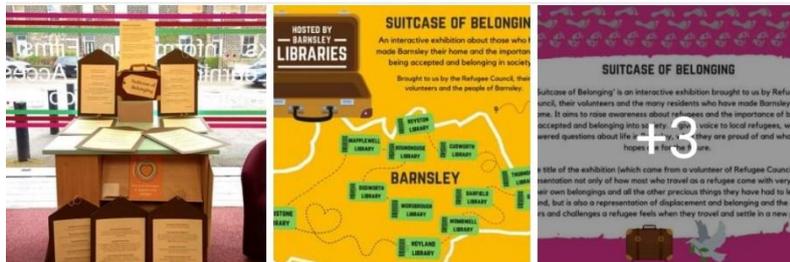


25 Mar · 🌐

We have welcomed this interactive exhibition to nine of our libraries so far and it has just landed in Penistone Library!

'Suitcase of Belonging' has been loaned to us from our partners at [Refugee Council](#) and gives a voice to those who have made Barnsley their home. It will be in Penistone Library until 10th April before moving on to Hoyland Library and beyond, so come and see what it's all about and add your message of welcome 🙌

[Barnsley City of Sanctuary](#) [City of Sanctuary Barnsley Council](#) [Penistone Arts Week PAW](#) [Penistone Area Team](#)



👍❤️👤 13

1 comment • 2 shares

👍 Like 💬 Comment 📞 Send ➦ Share



What act of kindness made you feel accepted?

Have you had a little moment of hope or joy or love, or something that has made you feel at home? Or simply made you smile?

Touring exhibition 'Suitcase of Belonging' looks at the many things people need on their journey through life to feel accepted and belonging as well as the difficult decisions made by people who have had to flee their homes.

The exhibition has landed in Hoyland Library and will be there until 1st May before moving on to its final host library in Wombwell.

Loaned to us from our partners at Refugee Council, the exhibition gives a voice to those who have made Barnsley their home. Pop along, visit the exhibition and add your words of welcome to the suitcase.

[#welcome](#) [#suitcaseofbelonging](#)
[#librariesofsanctuary](#) Refugee Council City of Sanctuary [#BRAP](#)
[#BarnsleyRefugeeAdviceProject](#)

SUITCASE OF BELONGING
TOURING EXHIBITION

HOYLAND LIBRARY
UNTIL 1 MAY

BARNSELY LIBRARIES

SUITCASE OF BELONGING

"Suitcase of Belonging" is an interactive exhibition brought to us by Refugee Council, their volunteers and the many residents who have made Barnsley their home. It aims to raise awareness about refugees and the importance of being accepted and belonging into society. It gives voice to local refugees, who answered questions about life in Barnsley, what they are proud of and what their hopes are for the future.

The title of the exhibition (which came from a volunteer of Refugee Council) is a representation not only of how most who travel as a refugee come with very few of their own belongings and all the other precious things they have had to leave behind, but is also a representation of displacement and belonging and the hopes, fears and challenges a refugee feels when they travel and settle in a new place.

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- Cudworth Library - January 2024
- Mappleton Library - 31st January - 23rd February 2024
- Didwath Library - 26th February - 20th March 2024
- Penistone Library - 21st March - 18th April 2024
- Hoyland Library - 12th April - 2nd May 2024

Visit our libraries and get involved in the exhibition by adding your messages of welcome for those who have made Barnsley their home, and share with us the things you feel you would need in your own 'Suitcase of Belonging'.

What's important to you?
What makes you feel like you belong?
What moments of 'welcome' have you experienced, and how did it make you feel?

HOSTED BY BARNSELY LIBRARIES

SUITCASE OF BELONGING

An interactive exhibition about those who have made Barnsley their home and the importance of being accepted and belonging in society. Brought to us by the Refugee Council, their volunteers and the people of Barnsley.

BARNSELY LIBRARIES

MAPPLEWELL LIBRARY
ROYSTON LIBRARY
CUDWORTH LIBRARY
PENISTONE LIBRARY
HAYLAND LIBRARY
DARFIELD LIBRARY
WOMBWELL LIBRARY
ROYTON LIBRARY
ROUNDHOUSE THURMSTON
GOLDTHORPE LIBRARY

The idea for this exhibition came about following a conversation with the former Project Manager for Barnsley Refugee Advice Project (which is part of Refugee Council), where I described a previous project we delivered in partnership with a local refugee support group in 2018.

In 2018 we collaborated with the Penistone Refugee and Asylum Seekers Support Group to create some posters to increase visibility of the presence, voice and contribution of the refugees and asylum seekers we supported in our Conversation Café. The idea behind this was that the local church in Penistone had many attendees who donated to the Penistone Refugee and Asylum Seekers Support Group but, often due to geographical location, felt detached from the impact their donation was having.

With the consent of the members of the Conversation Café, we created posters with their picture and some words from them. We asked them to answer only the questions they felt comfortable answering, and asked questions about the country they grew up in, what they felt about life in Barnsley and what their hopes and ambitions were for the future.

These were then displayed at the church in Penistone as well as during our 'Refutea' celebration in the library during Refugee Week.

The members of the Conversation Café even wrote, performed and recorded a song using their own words with the help of one of our library colleagues. This song was played at our Refutea celebration which brought together members from our Conversation Café and members from our Music and Memories group. This gave the settled community attending our Music and Memories group an opportunity to learn more about the people seeking sanctuary in Barnsley and to meet and share an enjoyable afternoon with them.

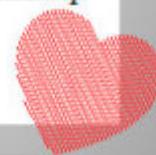


Convo Cafe
Track.mp3

Feedback:

Thanks for inviting us to the Refutea yesterday ,we really enjoyed it. You all should be proud of what you do . Everyone looked so happy and were obviously enjoying themselves. That is down to you all for your friendship and making everyone feel welcome .We made new friends .

We love the library it really is the heart of Bamsley .



Some details of the case studies from the project in 2018 given below have been blurred to protect the identity of those who contributed due to the time that has passed since consent was given:

Hi, my name is [redacted] years old. I have been living in Barnsley now for 8 months and I feel settled here. I come from Sudan and I lived in [redacted] with my family. I have a large family in Sudan who I have not seen for over a year. I have [redacted]

I studied at School until I was 17 and there I trained to be a builder. I have worked as a builder and I think that i am good at the job. My reasons for leaving Sudan are because of the political situation of my country and the fear of what will happen to me. I would like to stay in the United Kingdom and I want to work regularly so that I can be a part of my community.

I want some stability in my life; I have not known this for a long time.

My biggest fear is about not being understood. I am trying to learn to speak your language more clearly. My other fear is not being allowed to stay.

I love football and making music with a guitar and drums.

My journey here was hard. I want my life to be better.



Hello, my name is [REDACTED] and I am [REDACTED] years of age. I lived in Sudan and I left in 2013 for political reasons. My country is not a safe place for people who do not support those in power. I have been in Barnsley for 3 years and I have spent 6 months living in Manchester. My journey to the United Kingdom involved a car taking me to Libya where I lived for 18 months. From there I went to Italy by boat and I spent 4 days in Italy. The journey was very dangerous and you will have seen pictures of people travelling in this way on your television. From Italy I came to the United Kingdom by lorry via France and then by lorry. This took me 1 month to achieve and I was never sure that it would happen. I have left behind me in Sudan a family of a [REDACTED]. I trained and worked as a bricklayer and I would want to do that here. I want to remain settled in Barnsley and this is the thing that I want most. At the moment I do not think that my life is good because I do not know what will happen to me. I do try to keep happy and the things that help me to do this is my love of football and music.

Hello my name is [REDACTED] and I am a member of the conversation club which happens at the Library in Barnsley on a Monday morning. I am [REDACTED] years of age and I have come to the UK from Germany. I have been living in Barnsley now for 8 months and I feel very settled here. My country of origin is the Cameroon where the official language is French. I also speak my mother tongue and I speak German. I studied at University in the Cameroon and became an electrical engineer. I have worked as an electrical engineer in the Cameroon but I have not done so since leaving. I worked in the construction industry and acquired many skills. In Germany, I worked as a van driver but I can do more than this. I have [REDACTED] in the Cameroon where my [REDACTED] also lives. I like the idea of travelling and, when I am settled, I would like to be able to do this again. I feel welcomed in Barnsley living among people I find friendly. My hope would be to settle permanently in Barnsley and to find work as an electrical engineer or an electrician. I feel happy in my life right now.

I am living in Barnsley. I am [redacted] years of age and my home country is Sudan.

I had to leave Sudan because of political reasons. My country was suffering warfare and there was no peace. I travelled from Sudan to Libya by car and I remained there for 2 years. From Libya I travelled to Greece by boat and from there to Moldova by bus. I travelled on to Serbia by bus and from there to Hungary. I walked and caught trains and eventually ended up in Germany. From there my journey took me to France and Holland and Belgium. I arrived in the United Kingdom by lorry. First I was in Wakefield and then, for the last eight months, in Barnsley.

I studied accountancy at the University [redacted] and I trained to be an accountant. I have worked in [redacted] as a company assistant.

My interests include football and drumming.

I have a family in Sudan who I have had to leave behind, I have a [redacted] who I try to speak to by telephone. My [redacted] and [redacted] still live in Sudan.

My biggest fear is what will happen to my family in Sudan; it is not a safe place. I worry about them and I feel the stress in my life which means that I cannot say, at the moment, that I am happy.

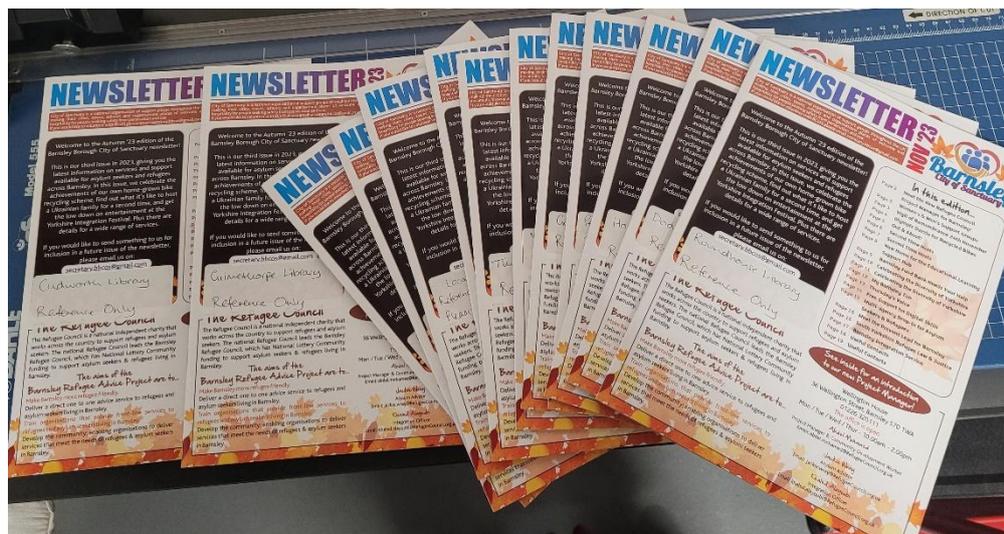


We have also welcomed pop up exhibitions from our partners, including a children's art competition and workshop coordinated by Barnsley Borough City of Sanctuary in 2022, both of which helped to raise awareness within our libraries of the local Barnsley City of Sanctuary group and the work they do, their campaign for a humane asylum process and also the messages of welcome that the children of Barnsley want to share with refugees and asylum seekers.





We are proud to display our local Barnsley Borough City of Sanctuary quarterly newsletter, of which a printed copy is exclusively available to read in each of our libraries.



The newsletter outlines support services and groups for people seeking sanctuary, City of Sanctuary campaign information, promotion of events, activities and projects, and contributions from people with lived experience of seeking sanctuary.

These printed copies kindly gifted to us by our local City of Sanctuary group ensures that a wider audience gets sight of their newsletter than those already following the group's activities and reading the digital copy.

This means that some people in our settled communities who might not actively engage in conversations about sanctuary get sight of information about the need for a humane asylum

	<p>process. This information may or may not initially align with their opinion, but even a quick flick through a newsletter can offer a different perspective and, in time, potentially a different outlook.</p> <p>One quote which helps demonstrate this was from a former Secretary of Barnsley Borough City of Sanctuary, who said in a meeting:</p> <p>“As I sat in the library I saw a lady pick up our newsletter and start reading it. She flicked through a few pages, paused on a few, and made a displeased looking face and placed it back down. Those are exactly the people we want to be finding and picking up these newsletters.”</p>
<p>Embed</p> <p>Criterion 2: 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.</p>	<p>We have a nominated member of staff as a contact point for sanctuary queries/people seeking sanctuary.</p> <p>This is clearly communicated on our website and a link to a contact form is also included. Our website can be translated into over 100 languages so most visiting the libraries’ website can read the details about contacting our library service for sanctuary queries/people seeking sanctuary in their first language.</p> <p>The contact link on the website directs the visitor to a contact form which goes to our internal enquiries inbox. The team managing the inbox then forward any sanctuary enquiries on to the nominated person.</p> <p>This process was designed to ensure that it is always simple for someone to contact our service and that they will never access out of date information on our website. If in future the nominated member of staff ceases to become the contact point, another appropriately trained nominated member of staff will be allocated this role and staff updated accordingly.</p> <p>Our partners also have the direct contact details for me currently and they are aware I am the sanctuary lead.</p> <p>The current nominated member of staff is myself, [REDACTED], Engagement Officer, Barnsley Libraries. I am appropriately trained and have undertaken the following training:</p>

Certificate of Achievement

This is to certify that



has completed

Libraries of Sanctuary Training

3 May 2024

Signed 
Sarah Norman, Chief Executive



Please note that I completed this training more than once, most recently on 3 May 2024 as the training course had been added to our training portal where certification is available.

eLearning

Certificate of Achievement

This is to certify that



has completed

Equality, diversity, inclusion and belonging 11/23

10 November 2023

Signed 
Sarah Norman, Chief Executive



personal development

Certificate of Achievement

This is to certify that



has completed

Unconscious Bias eLearning

3 November 2023

Signed 
Sarah Norman, Chief Executive



Certificate of Achievement

This is to certify that



has completed

Introduction to Safeguarding in the workplace

22 November 2023

Signed 
Sarah Norman, Chief Executive



Certificate of Achievement

This is to certify that



has completed

Domestic Abuse Awareness eLearning BMBC (2022)

16 November 2023

Signed 
Sarah Norman, Chief Executive



Certificate of Achievement

This is to certify that



has completed

Mental Health Awareness eLearning BMBC

11 April 2024

Signed 
Sarah Norman, Chief Executive



Relevant webinars attended:

Libraries and Sanctuary – working with new arrivals, webinar, March 2024

Enhancing Refugee Lives through Digital Inclusion, webinar, March 2024

Refugee Council FAQ Video Playlist, Youtube, April 2024

Introduction to Migration, webinar, January 2023

<p>Criterion 3: 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.</p>	<p><i>Of No Fixed Abode – Building the Public Library Offer</i>, webinar, January 2023</p> <p>City of Sanctuary training videos completed:</p> <p><u>General City of Sanctuary</u></p> <p><u>Co-production</u></p> <p><u>Safeguarding</u></p> <p><u>Asylum Process</u></p> <p>Barnsley Libraries has demonstrated an ability to engage people seeking sanctuary in decision-making processes and activities. This is evidenced through a number of projects, including the Stories From Around The World project which was co-produced with people seeking sanctuary, delivered in 2022 and celebrated the spoken languages in our local community.</p> <p>Stories From Around The World was a funded project from Barnsley Libraries with Feels Like Home, which is a Barnsley-based open cultural sharing group for anyone wanting to learn English conversation and make new friends. The project came about from conversation in the Feels Like Home group around sharing stories. Barnsley Libraries was successful in gaining funding from Creative Minds to work alongside Feels Like Home to host 13 families from Feels Like Home in Barnsley’s central library, Library @ the Lightbox, including 22 children aged between 1 and 11 over the course of 6 months.</p> <p>Throughout the project families enjoyed sharing nursery rhymes and fairy tales from their countries of origin, relishing the challenge of explaining meanings in English and teaching songs to speakers of other languages. They also enjoyed exploring and learning new nursery rhymes and fairy tales, with the children often very pleased to learn with their family songs that they had heard at nursery or school in the UK. Seven first languages were represented, with a wide range of</p>
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nationalities including Salvadoran, Greek, Kurdish, Turkish, Romanian, Polish, Sudanese, Georgian, Afghan and Iranian.

Families were invited to join our regular Story and Rhyme sessions, participated in storytelling workshops to help them build confidence in storytelling with visiting professional storyteller [Richard O'Neill](#), art workshops to create illustrations for their stories with professional artist Helen Boutle and [video recordings](#) where some shared their story, song or rhyme.

A printed book was released with their stories, rhymes, songs and illustrations included which was gifted to attendees and partners at the celebration event for the project. Printed copies were also added to stock across each of our libraries and added as digital library stock as an e-book on Libby.

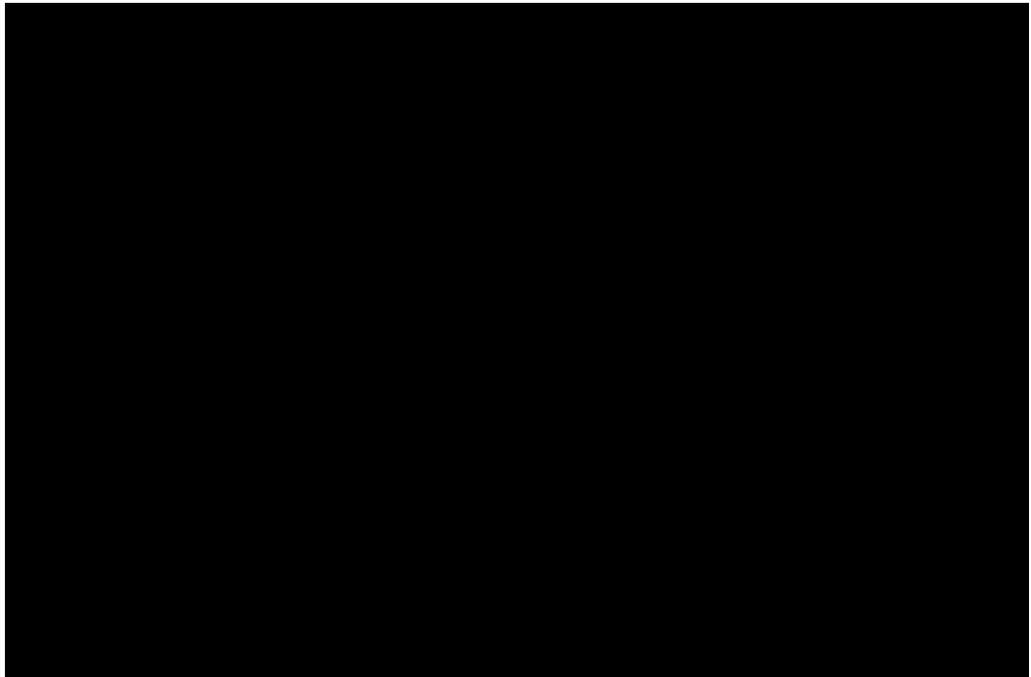
The attendees also courageously stood up at the celebration event and shared their songs and rhymes, and also watched their video recordings together, and enjoyed family/friends portraits with a photographer, with prints gifted to them after the event.

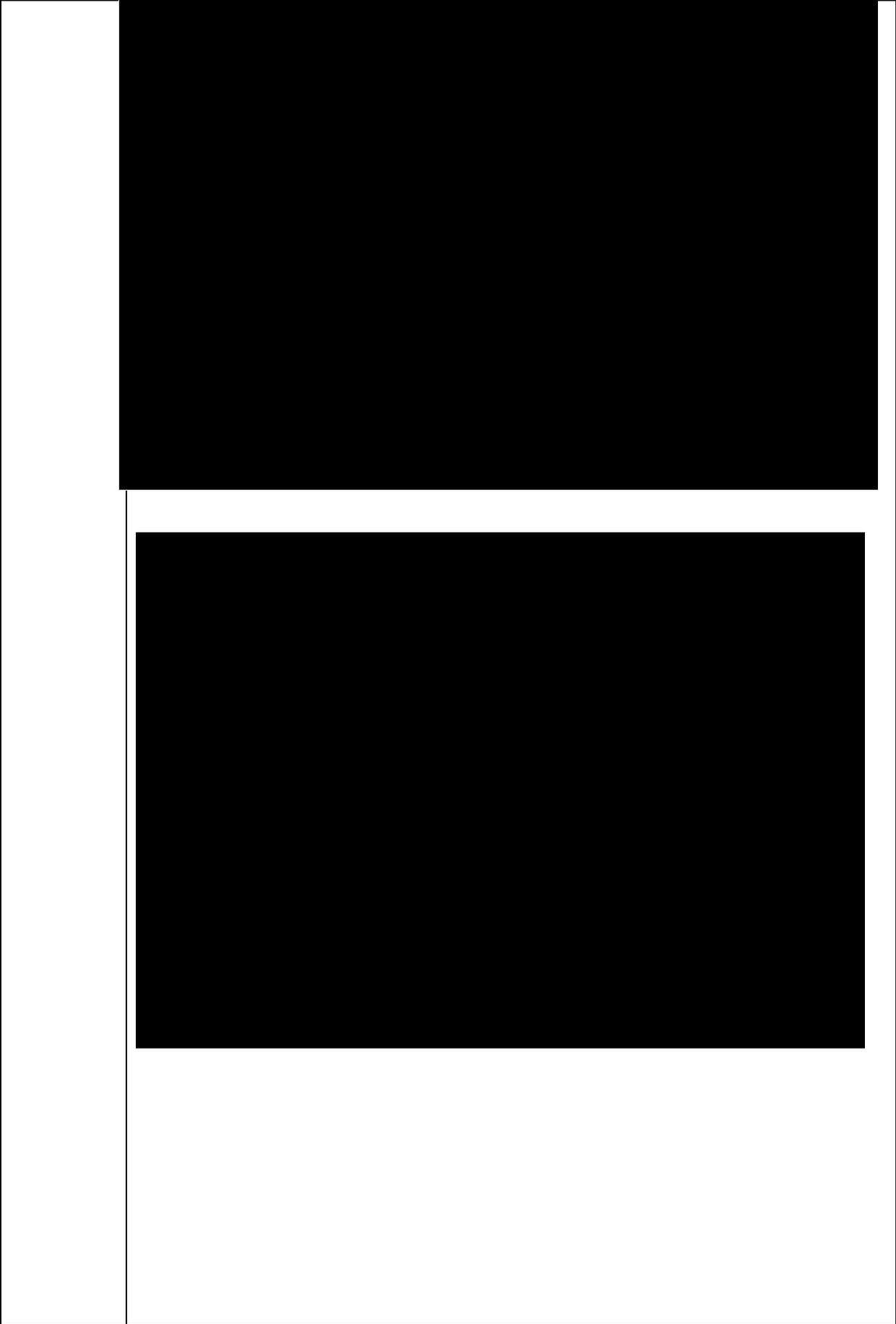


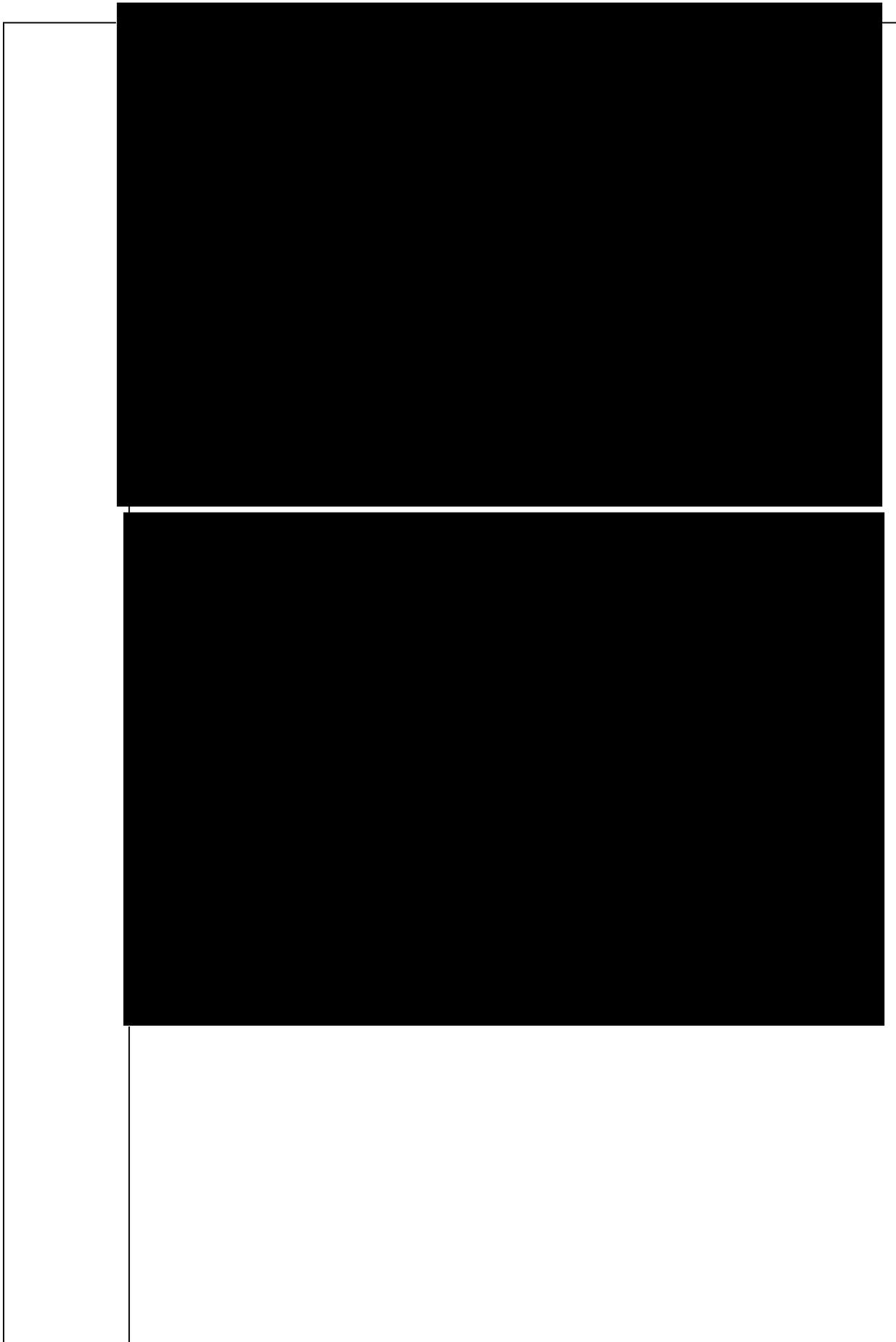
An illustration by [REDACTED] for 'A lullaby from Georgia'.

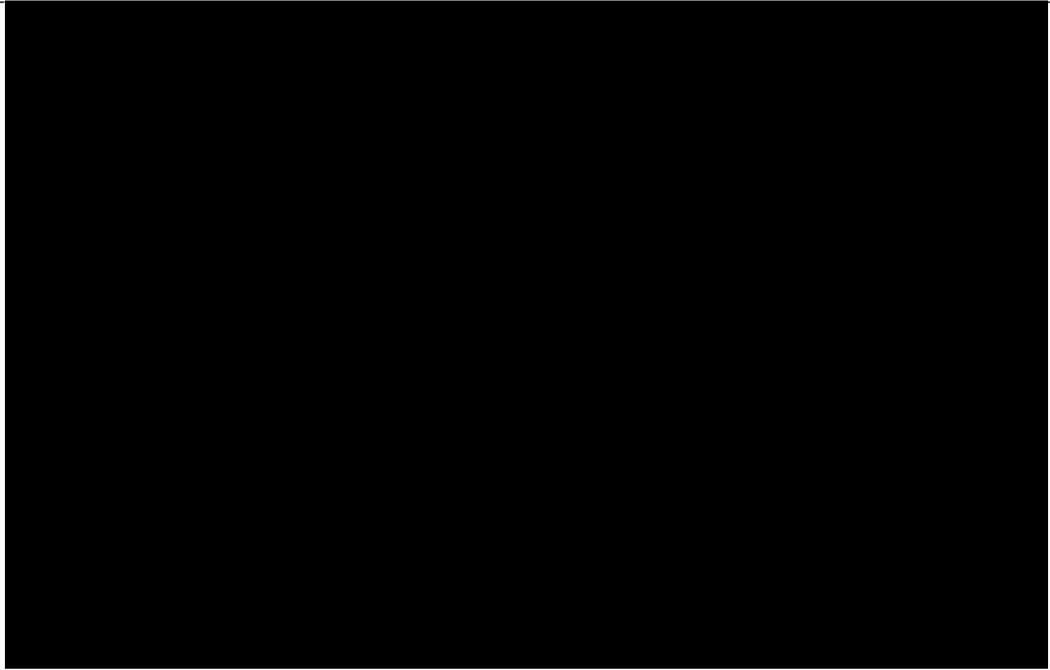


An illustration by [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] for 'Mace Mace Pis Pis Pis – a rhyme from
[REDACTED]



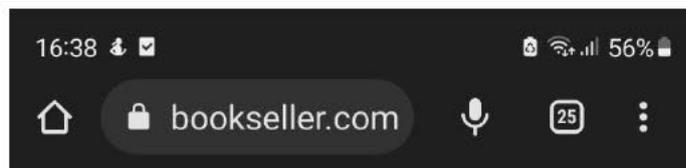






A selection of photographs from the celebration event

We also gained further interest in this project, with a council press release, an article in the [local newspaper](#), an article in [The Bookseller](#) (given below), and a nomination to Libraries Connected's '[Children's Promise](#)' award in 2023.



Barnsley Library Service



The stories from Around the World project has united the community

Barnsley

Barnsley Library service has created its own a book of nursery rhymes from around the world, which is available in all of its 15 library branches and through the online resources.

The idea came from a discussion with the local community on the Feels Like Home group, which includes asylum seekers, migrant workers and refugees, many of whom speak English as an additional language, and got off the ground after receiving funding from local charity Creative Minds.

██████████ engagement officer, led on the series. “We wanted to ensure the library is accessible and relevant to the direct communities in Barnsley and representative of Barnsley’s changing communities and welcoming to all,” she told *The Bookseller*. “Many families have lived in Barnsley for a few years now, and their children are learning English at school and bringing English into the home, which is wonderful, but

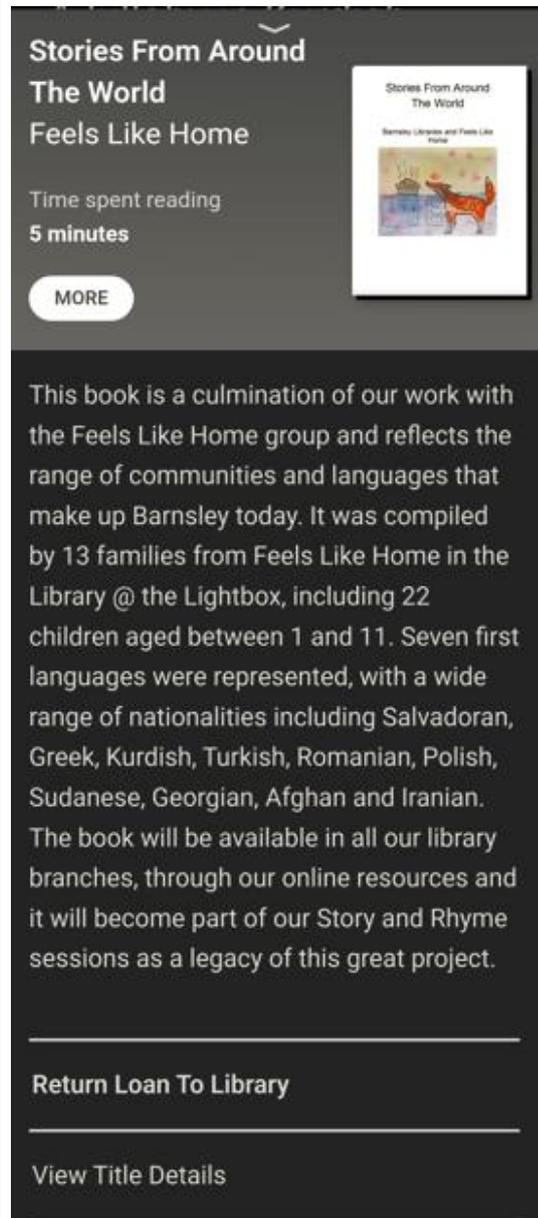
they have found that as a result they don't speak their original language as much at home. So it's giving them that opportunity to share and celebrate that language with their own children."

The Stories from Around the World project has since been offered further funding and the library service is working with the community to find out what they would like to do next

The book is written in 11 different languages. Over six months, 13 families from El Salvador, Greece, Romania, Sudan and Afghanistan came to the library to share nursery rhymes and fairytales from their countries and songs in their first language. [REDACTED] said it's "definitely raised awareness of what the library service can offer", adding: "Families have become more familiar with the library and the setup and the books, as well as our regular activities and events."

The Stories from Around the World project has since been offered further funding and the library service is working with the community to find out what they would like to do next.

The 'Stories From Around The World' book is available in each of our libraries and as an eBook on the Libby app.



The screenshot shows a dark-themed interface for a book. At the top, the title 'Stories From Around The World' is displayed in white, followed by the subtitle 'Feels Like Home'. Below the title, it says 'Time spent reading 5 minutes' and there is a white button with the word 'MORE' in black. To the right of the text is a small image of the book cover, which features a colorful illustration of a person and a dog. Below the screenshot, there is a paragraph of text describing the book's origin and availability, followed by two horizontal lines and the text 'Return Loan To Library' and 'View Title Details'.

Stories From Around
The World
Feels Like Home

Time spent reading
5 minutes

MORE

This book is a culmination of our work with the Feels Like Home group and reflects the range of communities and languages that make up Barnsley today. It was compiled by 13 families from Feels Like Home in the Library @ the Lightbox, including 22 children aged between 1 and 11. Seven first languages were represented, with a wide range of nationalities including Salvadoran, Greek, Kurdish, Turkish, Romanian, Polish, Sudanese, Georgian, Afghan and Iranian. The book will be available in all our library branches, through our online resources and it will become part of our Story and Rhyme sessions as a legacy of this great project.

Return Loan To Library

View Title Details

We also encourage feedback and input from people seeking sanctuary during our regular groups and activities to help us shape these service offers to meet the needs of our communities, including our weekly Conversation Café group.

We are currently working on bringing more opportunities for conversation at levels tailored to those attending, including branching the café into a 'beginners' conversation and an 'advanced' conversation during the session.

This is in part due to the group's popularity amongst many people seeking sanctuary with varying levels of English speaking skills. This will ensure that those who are not initially confident in speaking English have a safe and welcoming space to begin their English speaking journey and those who are more advanced have an engaging space to explore in more depth complex conversations such as culture, art and politics.

We aim to support people to choose which group they would like to take part in during the session by describing each group in a clear way without stigma e.g. 'in this group we'll be having a relaxed chat about things we see, say and buy at the shops and playing a game or two', 'in this group we'll be having a relaxed chat about classicism and the different themes we see in this art type'. The topics are usually chosen from participant feedback, based on knowledge of their individual interests, or to support their language in specific everyday situations such as visiting the doctor.

We also engage people seeking sanctuary in our planning of activities by acting on feedback received from people seeking sanctuary during outreach sessions. Our nominated sanctuary lead regularly attends outreach to support people seeking sanctuary and at one of these events spoke to children who arrived in Barnsley seeking sanctuary. They expressed an interest in being able to try out some needlework activities such as crochet and knitting in the library.

Our Crochet Kids activity during Refugee Week aimed to bring these desired activities to the children who expressed an interest as well as other school children and offered a safe space for children to share in a common interest.

This activity was aimed towards school children who are new to trying crochet and knitting and was a drop in, so parents didn't need to book a place, the family could just come along on the day.

The advert for this was shared multiple times with the Feels Like Home coordinator to promote in their WhatsApp group and discuss in person with families at their weekly meet up to

ensure those children who expressed an interest get sight of the advert for the session.

Children who attended the session came away with the skills to make a basic crochet square and started a 'worry worm' during the session. Importantly, they also went home with a crochet hook and yarn, to be able to continue their new skill. Following the activity and feedback from it, we look to develop this session into a regular group for children to attend and we hope to continue to promote this across our partners to support families seeking sanctuary to attend.

Building on the award

Our plans to build on the award will involve regular actions throughout the year to develop our culture of welcome in our libraries. Our regular actions are to:

- review our service
- deliver relevant events and activities
- further engage with people seeking sanctuary
- develop opportunities for the settled community to meet and share time with people seeking sanctuary in a safe and welcoming space

We will take these actions by meeting as a project group twice a year to:

- review our offer to people seeking sanctuary, acknowledge any updates and changes to our services and discuss opportunities for development including but not limited to
 - stock acquisition
 - translation of flyers into further languages
 - training and development
- plan and deliver events and activities for Refugee Week to celebrate the contribution of people seeking sanctuary
- plan and deliver an 'exchange visit' between a library group and a local group of people seeking sanctuary by working together with our partners
- plan and deliver regular outreach with our partners

In addition to this:

- we are currently planning a creative feedback session with people seeking sanctuary to try out a new craft or activity whilst having conversations around their experiences in our libraries. We hope to gain feedback from people with lived experience and to involve them in/help us inform our decision-making processes and activities. We have identified people seeking sanctuary who would like to participate in this by liaising with our partners in the Safer Communities team within the council who come into our libraries with new arrivals and continue to support those who have arrived previously
- Barnsley Libraries became an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation in 2023, with funding secured to bring a whole range of exciting arts and cultural activities to Libraries across the borough. As part of this, we will be hosting creative experiences to mark Black History Month in October. We will do this by commissioning an artist/s to creatively respond to the theme of this year's Black History Month 'Reclaiming Narratives'
- We are working together with University of Sheffield to deliver a digital project with local dual-language families. 'Traditional Tales, Untraditionally Told' will work with a group of 5-10 multilingual families to share favourite traditional stories and have discussions around multilingual identities, followed by maker sessions where the families will create story props, backgrounds and characters to recreate their stories. They will also learn digital skills in Stop Motion/Octostudio to retell their traditional stories incorporating multilingual aspects and these stories will be shared publicly. This project will also give the opportunity for staff training to deliver similar sessions after the project has been completed.

Criterion 4:
Create
opportunities
for
relationship

Barnsley Libraries have successfully created opportunities for friendship and solidarity between people seeking sanctuary in Barnsley and the local community. In 2018 we celebrated

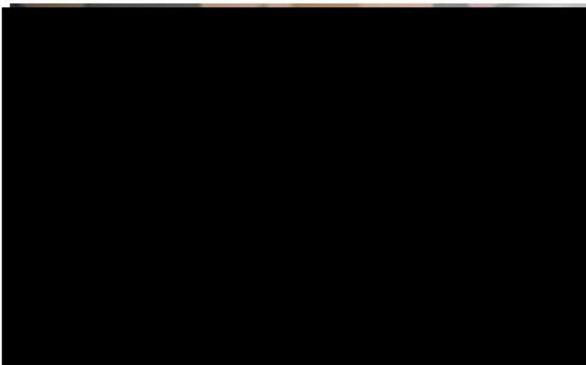
s of friendship and solidarity to develop between local people and those seeking sanctuary through active engagement with the wider community, including people seeking sanctuary and the local City of Sanctuary network and/or refugee support network if there is one.

Refugee Week by inviting our regular groups in libraries to come along to our Conversation Café to meet and share a chat and a cuppa. We also invited our Conversation Café and our Music and Memories group – a group for people with dementia and their carers – to a 'Refutea' to meet, share and enjoy time together.



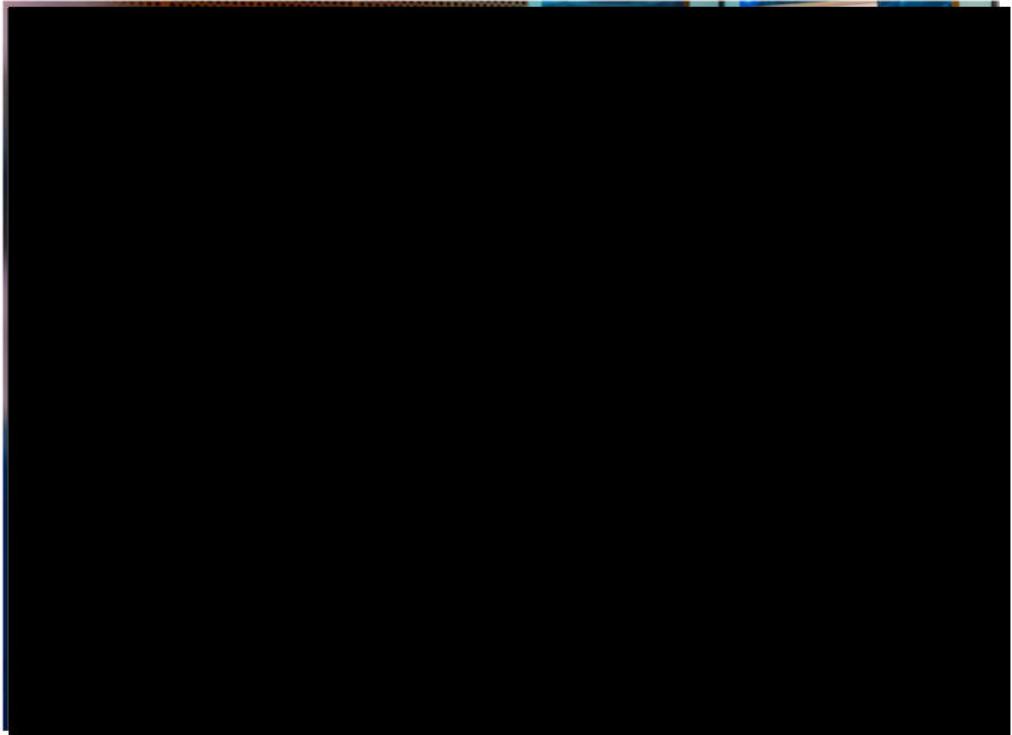
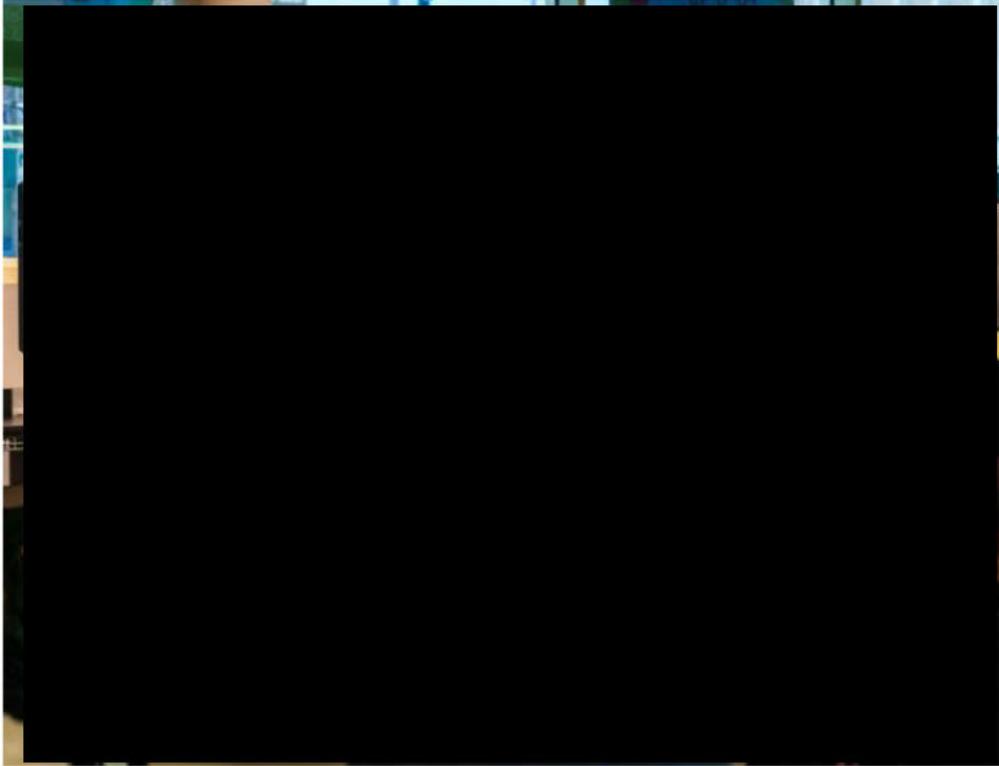


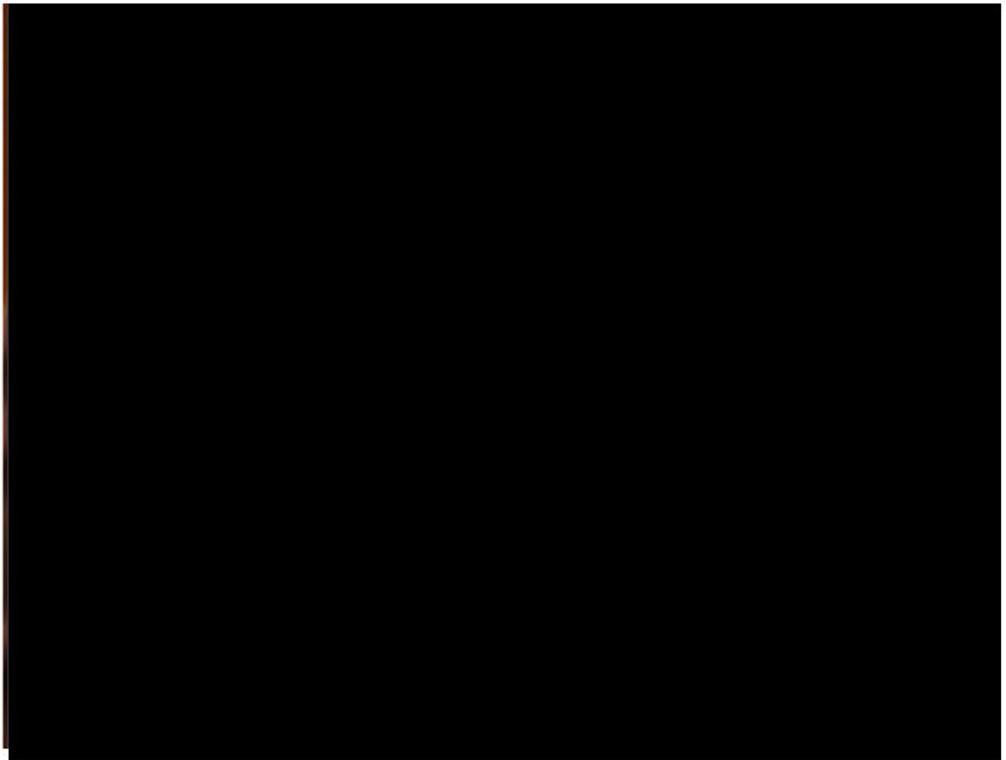
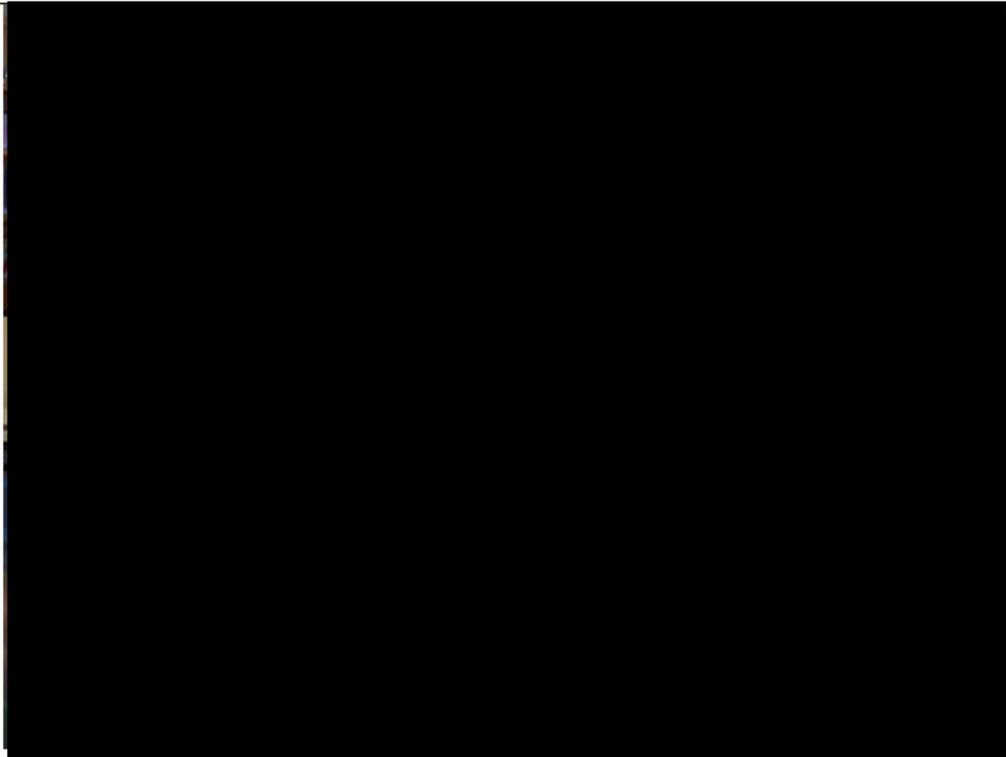
During our Stories From Around The World project, the families in the Feels Like Home group were invited to join us for our regular Story and Rhyme sessions in the library where they were able to meet other parents and care-givers and socialise with them, share songs, rhymes and stories with their children and enjoy the children's area in the library with their family.



As part of the first Barnsley Book Festival in 2024, we delivered a Multilingual Open Mic night with host Livia Barrieria. The open mic night gave an opportunity for multi-lingual people to take the stage and share music, song, spoken word and poetry with a friendly audience in a welcoming space. This both amplified the voice of speakers of other languages and provided a space

to share with settled communities, to get to know each other and to enjoy a common interest together.





Performers at the Multilingual open mic night during Barnsley Book Festival, Library @ the Lightbox, 2024.

We have successfully delivered numerous outreach visits to local refugee groups and drop-in support sessions for new arrivals in which the nominated contact lead for sanctuary – alongside members of the Development Team, and occasionally

members of frontline staff – have been able to meet and greet people seeking sanctuary and speak to them about the library groups and activities we have on offer each week, as well as special events, the everyday services we offer and the accessible and comfortable library spaces we welcome everyone to enjoy.

During our outreach visits, we ask people seeking sanctuary about what is important to them, what they would like to do in our libraries, and we support them to do this – sometimes this might involve setting up a library card for them there and then, or guiding them as to how to use the free WiFi when they are in the library, or simply sharing information about using public computers or joining in with groups.

We are eager to continue developing on this outreach work and would like to also develop further the opportunities to invite groups along to the library to meet the regular attendees of our own weekly groups. This will be an action in our project team as we build on the award.

Our success in recruiting volunteers to Conversation Café has created an opportunity for volunteers who are part of the settled community to share and engage with people seeking sanctuary.

Feedback from Conversation Café volunteers and participants:

■■■■■ **It helps me to learn about English culture, for instance your food. It helps me to get to know people and say hello to them on the street. It improves my sense of belonging. You can talk in English.**

■■■■■ **The Conversation Café gives me the chance to explore culture, local interesting things and to know more about the place where I live. It not only gives me a chance to develop my spoken English, but to develop my individuality.**

■■■■ a volunteer: The Conversation is people from different cultures talking about shared experiences.

■■■■ a volunteer: It is lovely to see newcomers begin to bloom and grow in confidence.

Criterion 5: 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).

We identify opportunities for practical action to minimise barriers to people seeking sanctuary accessing our services.

We work alongside the council to ensure that an outline of our services and libraries are accessible online. Our libraries' webpages, which are part of the wider council website, can be viewed in 133 languages, ensuring the information about our library services is accessible in a wide range of languages.

Amharic



Arabic

المكتبات

المكتبات > خدمات > بيت

مكتبات بارنسلي

مركز مجتمعك



Spanish

Clubes de trabajo

¿Está buscando trabajo o desea mejorar sus habilidades para volver a trabajar? Ofrecemos ayuda y asesoramiento gratuitos en nuestros clubes de trabajo.

Podemos ayudarlo a encontrar trabajos en línea, ayudarlo a completar un formulario de solicitud y crear o actualizar un CV.

No es necesario reservar para asistir a un club de trabajo, simplemente acérquese a una de las sesiones.

[Ver actividades para adultos](#)

Café de conversación

Si necesita ayuda para desarrollar sus habilidades lingüísticas, tenemos cafés de conversación gratuitos. Se trata de visitas informales sin cita previa destinadas a ayudar a las personas a mejorar su capacidad de hablar inglés.

Las sesiones incluyen debates sobre temas de actualidad, así como sobre la vida en Barnsley.

El café de conversación se lleva a cabo en [Library@the Lightbox](#); averigüe cuándo en nuestros listados de actividades.

[Ver actividades para adultos](#)

Aprendizaje y descubrimiento

Para descubrir algo nuevo, aprender una habilidad o dedicarse a un nuevo pasatiempo, nuestras bibliotecas son un excelente lugar para comenzar.

Tenemos una extensa colección de [títulos de ficción y no ficción que puede buscar en línea](#), [recursos en línea](#) a los que puede acceder en la biblioteca y en casa, además de una variedad de [actividades y eventos](#) interesantes en los que puede participar.

[Ver actividades y eventos](#)

We also hold translated flyers in 9 different languages within each of our libraries and during our outreach visits. The languages identified to be the most widely spoken within Barnsley by the council's Equality and Diversity team, the council's housing and migration team and the Refugee Council were chosen to be professionally translated and more languages are being added to a list for future translations.

When we meet a person seeking sanctuary during our outreach work who reads a language we don't hold, or when we gain further insight from our partners of other languages to consider, we make a note of these and part of our ongoing

work will be ensuring our translations reflect the variety of languages spoken and read in Barnsley.

These flyers include general information about library services as well as an advert for our weekly Conversation Café.

BARNSELY LIBRARIES

Visit our website by scanning the QR code above.

Visit our website by scanning the QR code above.

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Free Wi-Fi | **E-books** | **E-magazines**
Computer access | **Meeting spaces**
Friendly staff | **Study spaces** | **Books**
E-Newspapers from all over the world
Volunteering Opportunities
Free printing | **Free events and activities**
Audiobooks | **Story and rhyme sessions**
Children's library | **and much more...**

To find more information about our services, visit our website at barnsley.gov.uk/services/libraries

CONVERSATION CAFE

A PLACE TO PRACTISE YOUR ENGLISH,
MAKE NEW FRIENDS
AND BUILD A COMMUNITY

FREE, NO BOOKING NEEDED,
EVERYONE WELCOME!

EVERY MONDAY 10 - 11.30AM

LIBRARY | 1, THE GLASSWORKS
@THE LIGHTBOX | BARNSELY S70 1GW

English version

BARNSELY LIBRARIES

Vizitoni uebfaqen tone duke skanuar kodin QR larte.

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[@BarnsleyLibs](#)
[@barnsleylibraries](#)

Wi-Fi falas | **E-libra** | **E-revista**
Qasje në kompjuterë | **Hapësira takimi**
Staf miqësor | **Hapësira mësimi**
E-gazeta nga e tërë bota | **Libra**
Mundësi për punë vullnetare
Printim falas | **Evente dhe aktivitete falas**
Audiolibra | **Sesione për tregime dhe rimë**
Bibliotekë për fëmijë | **Dhe shumë më tepër...**

Për të zbuluar më shumë informacione në lidhje me shërbimet tona, vizitoni uebfaqen tonë në barnsley.gov.uk/services/libraries

KAFENE BISEDE

VEND PËR TË USHTRUAR
ANGLISHTEN TUAJ, BËNI MIQË TË
RINJ DHE KRIJONI SHOQËRI

FALAS, NUK DUHET REZERVIM,
SECILI ËSHTË I MIRËSE ARDHUR

ÇDO TË HËNË 10 - 11.30 PARADITE

LIBRARY | 1, THE GLASSWORKS
@THE LIGHTBOX | BARNSELY S70 1GW

Albanian version

BARNSELY LIBRARIES

زر موقعنا عن طريق مسح رمز الاستجابة السريعة أعلاه.

BarnsleyLibraries
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@barnsleylibraries

مجلات إلكترونية | واى فاى | كتب
قاعات اجتماعات | استخدام أجهزة الكمبيوتر
قاعات دراسة | كتب
صحف إلكترونية من جميع أنحاء العالم
فرص تطوعية | موظفون متعاونون
طباعة مجانية | فعاليات وأنشطة مجانية
جلسات القصص والقوافي | كتب صوتية
مكتبة أطفال | والمزيد...

للغور على مزيد من المعلومات حول خدماتنا، تفضل بزيارة موقعنا على الويب على barnsley.gov.uk/services/libraries

Arabic

مقهى المحادثة

مكان لممارسة لغتك الإنجليزية،
وتكوين صداقات جديدة
وتكوين مجتمعات جديدة

مجاني، لا حاجة للحجز،
لترحب بالجميع!

كل يوم اثنين من الساعة 10:00 إلى الساعة
11:30 صباحاً

LIBRARY 1, THE GLASSWORKS
@THE LIGHTBOX BARNSELY S70 1GW

Arabic version

BARNSELY LIBRARIES

با اسكن كد QR بالا از وسایت ما دیدن کنید.

BarnsleyLibraries
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@barnsleylibraries

كتاب الكترونيكي | واى-فاى رايجان | محله اكترونيكي
دسترسى به كامپيوتر | فضاى ملاقات
كتاب | فضاى مطالعه | كاركنان خوش برخورد
روزنامه هاى الكترونيكي از سراسر جهان
فرصت هاى كار داوطلبانه
رویدادها و فعالیت هاى رايجان | چاپ رايجان
جلسات داستان و شعر | كتاب صوتى
کتابخانه کودکان | و خيلى چيزهاى ديگر...

برای کسب اطلاعات بیشتر در مورد خدمات ما، به وب سایت ما مراجعه کنید barnsley.gov.uk/services/libraries

Farsi

کافه گفتگو

مکانی برای تمرین زبان انگلیسی،
پیدا کردن دوستان جدید
و ایجاد گروه اجتماعی

رایگان، بدون نیاز به رزرو، همه
خوش آمدید!

هر دوشنبه 10 الی 11:30 قبل از ظهر

LIBRARY 1, THE GLASSWORKS
@THE LIGHTBOX BARNSELY S70 1GW

Farsi version

BARNSELY
LIBRARIES



Vizitați site-ul nostru
web scanând codul
QR de mai sus.

BarnsleyLibraries
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Wi-Fi gratuit E-books E-magazines
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Personal amabil Spații de studiu Cărți
E-Newspapere din toată lumea
Oportunități de voluntariat
Imprimare gratuită Evenimente și activități gratuite
Audiobook-uri Sesiuni de povești și rime
Biblioteca pentru copii și multe altele...

Pentru a afla mai multe informații despre serviciile noastre,
consultați site-ul nostru web la adresa
barnsley.gov.uk/services/libraries

Romanian

CAFENEUA DE CONVERSAȚII

LOC PENTRU A VĂ EXERSA ENGLEZA,
A VĂ FACE PRIETENI NOI ȘI CLĂDI O
COMUNITATE



GRATUIT, NU ESTE NECESARĂ
PROGRAMAREA, ORICINE ESTE
BINEVENIT!

ÎN FIECARE LUNI DE LA 10 LA 11.30AM

LIBRARY
@THE LIGHTBOX

1, THE GLASSWORKS
BARNSELY S70 1GW

Romanian version

BARNSELY
LIBRARIES



Escanea el código
QR para visitar
nuestro sitio web.

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 @barnsleylibraries

Wi-Fi gratis Libros elec. Revistas elec.
Computadoras Salas de reunión
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Diarios electrónicos de todo el mundo
Oportunidades de voluntariado
Impresiones gratis Sesiones de historia y rima
Audiolibros Eventos y actividades gratis
Biblioteca infantil Y mucho más...

Paramás información sobre nuestros servicios, visite nuestro sitio web en
barnsley.gov.uk/services/libraries

Spanish

TALLER DE CONVERSACIÓN

UN LUGAR PARA PRACTICAR TU
INGLÉS, FORJAR AMISTADES Y
CONSTRUIR UNA COMUNIDAD



GRATIS, SIN RESERVAS,
¡TODOS PUEDEN VENIR!

TODOS LOS LUNES DE 10 A 11:30 A.M.

LIBRARY
@THE LIGHTBOX

1, THE GLASSWORKS
BARNSELY S70 1GW

Spanish version

BARNSELY LIBRARIES

Відвідайте наш вебсайт, відсканувавши QR-код вище.

[f BarnsleyLibraries](#)
[@BarnsleyLibs](#)
[@barnsleylibraries](#)

Безкоштовний | **Електронні книги** | **Електронні журнали**
Доступ до комп'ютера | **Приміщення для зустрічей**
Приватні працівники | **Приміщення для навчання**
Електронні газети з усього світу | **Книги**
Можливості волонтерської роботи
Безкоштовний друк | **Безкоштовні заходи та заняття**
Аудіокниги | **Читання розповідей та віршів**
Дитяча бібліотека | **і багато іншого...**

РОЗМОВНИЙ КЛУБ

МІСЦЕ, ДЕ МОЖНА ПРАКТИКУВАТИ АНГЛІЙСЬКУ, ЗАВОДИТИ НОВИХ ДРУЗІВ ТА СТВОРИТИ СПІЛЬНОТУ



БЕЗКОШТОВНО, НЕ ПОТРІБНЕ РЕЗЕРВУВАННЯ, МИ РАДІ ВСІМ!

КОЖНОГО ПОНЕДІЛКА З 10.00 ДО 13.30

LIBRARY
@THE LIGHTBOX

**1, THE GLASSWORKS
BARNSELY S70 1GW**

Щоб дізнатися більше інформації про наші послуги, відвідайте наш вебсайт за адресою: barnsley.gov.uk/services/libraries Ukrainian

Ukrainian version

We update our stock with books in a variety of languages representative of our community and we promote these within the library on book displays and on our social media platforms. We have also worked in partnership with the University of Sheffield to obtain further picture books in other languages for our stock:



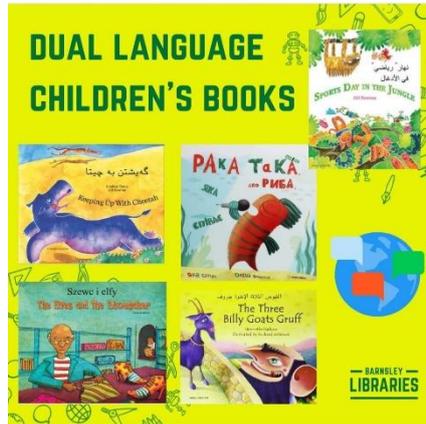


Barnsley Libraries

24 May · 🌐

We have a wide range of dual language children's books in our collection, including Arabic, Ukrainian, Kurdish, Polish and Chinese. Just search the Barnsley Libraries catalogue and under 'advanced search', specify which language you require:

[#https://barns.ent.sirsiidynix.net.uk/client/en_GB/default/search/results?te=#homerivers](https://barns.ent.sirsiidynix.net.uk/client/en_GB/default/search/results?te=#homerivers) #duallanguage



👍 6



Barnsley Libraries

16 Mar 2021 · 🌐

Halo! Buna ziua! Sveiki! Olá! Hello! Here's a selection of books in our foreign language collection. We also have children's books. Languages include Latvian, Romanian, Polish, Portuguese, Urdu, Arabic, French, Italian, German and Russian.

#languages #conversationcafe



👍 5

1 share



Barnsley Libraries

12 Feb · 🌐

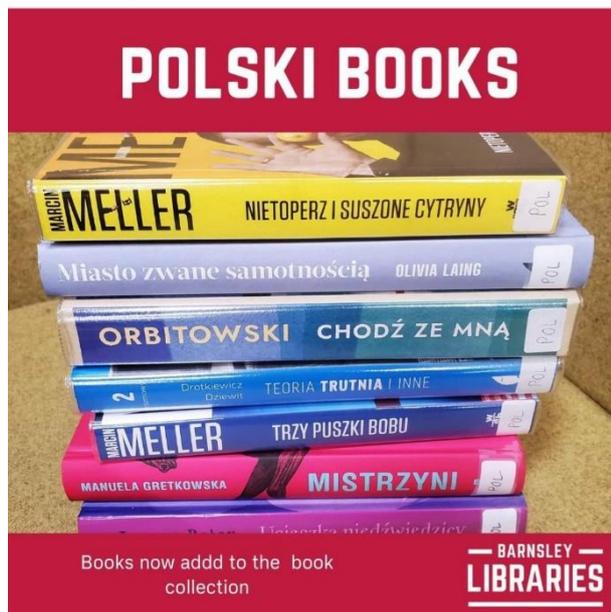
Come and take a look at the newly added books to the Polish book collection at Library@theLightbox.

Why not have a look at our library catalogue:

<https://barns.ent.sirsiidynix.net.uk/>

#BarnsleyLibraries #Books

#Library@theLightbox



We offer digital resources which support people seeking sanctuary to enjoy our services, including PressReader. PressReader is included within our Libby app and offers up to date eNewspapers in many languages spoken in Barnsley including English, Polish, Romanian, Albanian, Arabic, Urdu, Ukrainian, Punjabi and Spanish.

PressReader can be translated into 18 languages and promotes the value of its readership across many cultures and languages as shown below in its advertisements below.



Translate up to
18 languages

Many languages.
Many cultures.
Many publications.

One app.



An example of a small number of publications available in PressReader is given below.



Romania Libera - Friday Edition
7 Jun 2024



Bursa
13 Jun 2024



Indo-Canadian Times
6 Jun 2024



Super Express Chicago
7 Jun 2024



Super Express Nowy Jork
11 Jun 2024



The Miracle
31 May 2024

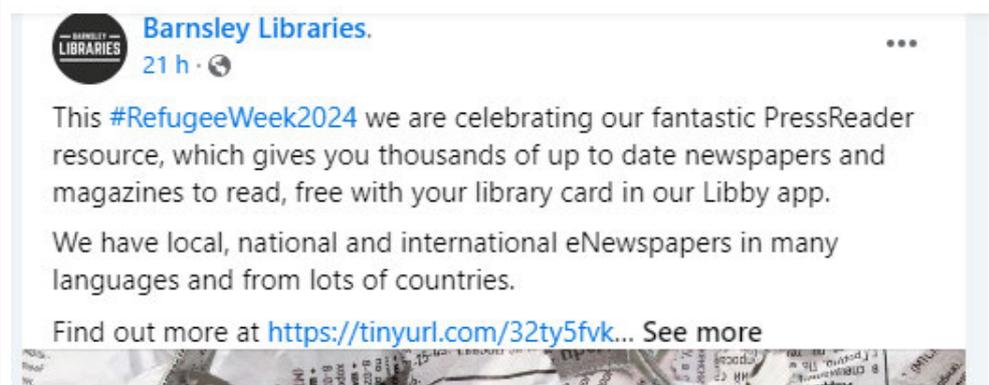


Punjabi Journal
1 Mar 2024



DAILY ROZAN GUJRAT
12 Jun 2024

We promote PressReader online through our website and social media channels, including promoting the various languages and countries the newspaper represent:





Libby is a worldwide app used by many libraries and its settings include the option to choose a language within the app.

Language

- english 94
- spanish 328
- portuguese 180
- french 169
- italian 124
- japanese 122
- german 115
- chinese 94
- afrikaans 60
- swedish 30
- danish 27
- korean 10
- dutch 7
- welsh 6
- ukrainian 4
- romanian 3
- russian 3
- gujarati 2
- indonesian 2
- turkish 2
- gaelic 1
- georgian 1
- kurdish 1
- norwegian 1
- polish 1
- tamil 1
- vietnamese 1

- less



Barnsley Libraries



15 Feb 2022 · 🌐

Did you know that the [#Libbyapp](#) interface is available in 10 languages?

We also have a range of ebooks in Spanish in our digital collection.

[#multilingual](#) [#multilingualfamily](#)
[#languages](#)



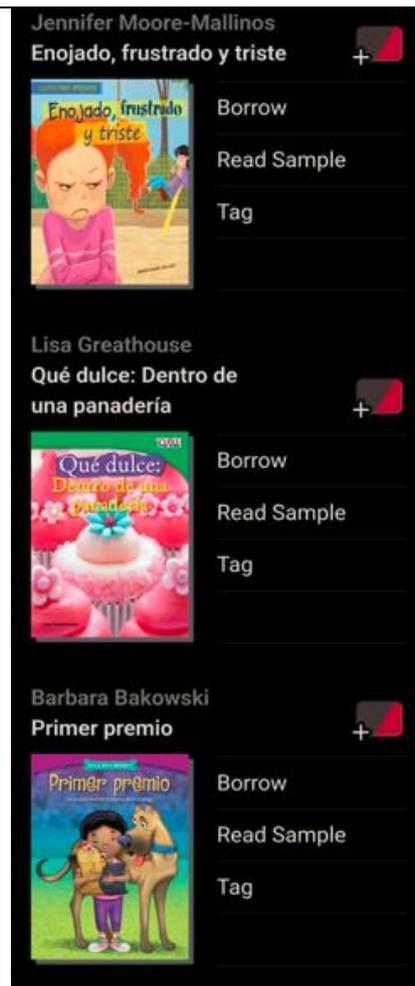
1

1 comment



Once connected with a Barnsley Library card, the user can view and borrow the stock we hold - we have thousands of eBooks, eAudio-books, eMagazines and hundreds of national, international and local eNewspapers.

The books available in other languages on Libby are not managed by individual libraries, however there are many eBooks in other languages, including for children.



We encourage library users to click 'Notify Me' if they find a book that is not in our stock that they would like to read, as it only takes 3 users to click on 'Notify Me' for the app to send a notification to librarians stating there is demand for the item and asking if they would like to purchase it for their library.

Other digital resources which have been popular with people seeking sanctuary during outreach sessions have included Theory Test Pro, which offers free access to mock driving theory tests, hazard perception tests and knowledge and information including the most up to date Highway Code.

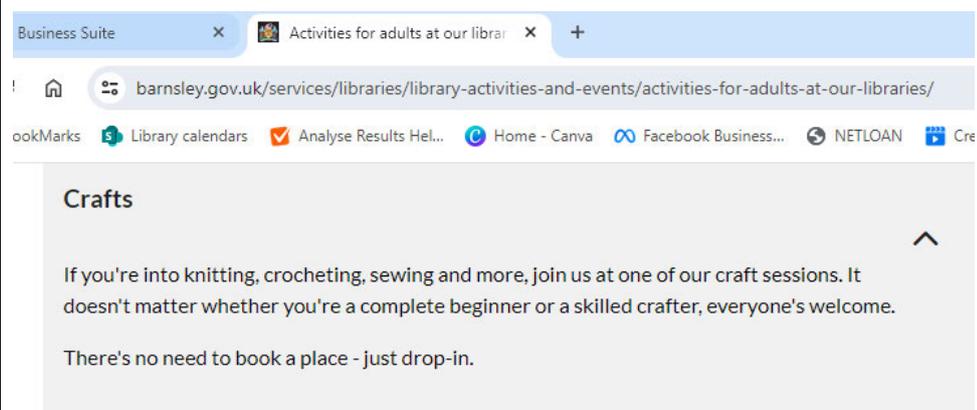
It is free for any library member, who can use it at any time inside or outside of the library by clicking the link on our website.

Reference resources available inside and outside the library

Resource	Description
Oxford English Dictionary	A guide to the meaning and history of over half a million words, constantly updated from English language sources worldwide.
Theory Test Pro	Preparation for your Driving Theory Test (licensed from the DVSA).

Within our libraries we offer a safe and welcoming space. All our libraries are part of the '[Safe Places Scheme](#)', which means that library staff will help anyone who comes into the library who is scared or lost in town. There are lots of reasons someone might present in our libraries requiring help as part of the Safe Places Scheme. Some of these might include help to contact a named Support Worker to come and collect someone who is lost or needs their support, someone who has experienced hostility or aggression in the town centre or someone who has fled domestic violence. Our library staff are trained to support someone who presents to find a safe, private space in the library and to coordinate other services to provide the ongoing support they need.

We offer regular groups and activities for adults and children and families in each of our libraries. The groups in our libraries are welcome to all and we regularly ensure our language reflects this inclusivity when promoting our services:



Readers' groups



Our readers' groups give you the opportunity to discuss books, authors and genres with others, in a friendly and informal group. They're open to anyone who is, or would like to become, a [member of the library](#).

New members are always welcome and there's no need to book a place - just drop in.

Social activities



Our social activities include a range of coffee mornings and games groups where everyone's welcome.

We offer a weekly Conversation Café at our flagship Library @ the Lightbox. The weekly sessions are informal drop-ins to help people develop their languages skills and improve their spoken English in a safe, welcoming and informal environment.

Our Conversation Café has been running since 2012 when it was first launched and delivered by library staff. Library staff and volunteers have co-delivered the sessions since 2017 and we now have 10 passionate volunteers dedicated to supporting and welcoming people seeking sanctuary into the library and into Barnsley. Some of our volunteers in the Conversation Café are also our partners in Barnsley Borough City of Sanctuary and Penistone Refugee and Asylum Seekers Support Group.

From April 2023-March 2024 we delivered 44 Conversation Café sessions and in total we welcomed 310 attendees. From April 2024 to 7th August 2024 we delivered 10 sessions and welcomed 80 attendees.

CONVERSATION CAFE

PRACTISE YOUR ENGLISH MAKE NEW FRIENDS

BUILD A COMMUNITY

**FREE, NO BOOKING NEEDED,
EVERYONE WELCOME!**

**EVERY MONDAY
10 - 11.30AM**

**1 THE GLASS WORKS
BARNSELY S70 1GW**

LIBRARY
@THE LIGHTBOX



Our Conversation Café is also promoted as part of the wider offer within Barnsley.

Barnsley Conversation Groups

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
AM	Lightbox Library 10:00-11:30	ELSH 10:00-12:00	Women's Group 10:00 - 12:00	ELSH 10:00-12:00	
PM		Men's Group 12:00 - 2:00	Drop-in 12:30 - 2:30 ----- HARP 12:30 - 2:30	BRAP 12:30 - 2:00	
Eve			Feels Like Home 4:30 - 6:30		









Our library staff are experienced and knowledgeable in supporting people who present in our libraries who require support or guidance from partner organisations or services. As well as having an up to date understanding of current services and organisations available to support people, our library staff are also skilled in customer service and in identifying the needs of the people who present in the library, who can often need support from a variety of services.

Our library staff regularly update their knowledge, and this is supported by a whole organisation approach to information sharing and promoting services available to people within the borough.



Barnsley Libraries

Published by Marianne Fraser-Hussain · 11 June at 19:00 · 🌐

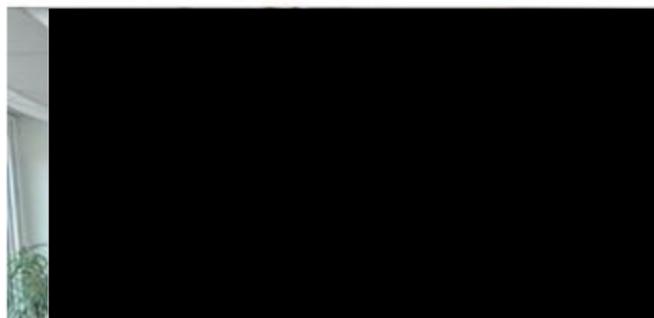
As part of HiVis Fortnight we are celebrating our amazing, friendly staff - they are on hand to help you when you visit the library! You can easily recognise a member of staff as they will be wearing a burgundy coloured lanyard.

If you need some help preparing for your visit to the library, our website will help you out! It has clear information about each library, the accessibility inside and outside and the opening hours.

Find out about your nearest library >>

<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/ser.../libraries/find-a-library/>

#HiVis2024 #AccessibilityinReading #ConnectingwithOthers



Our
WEBSITE
can help you
prepare for your
visit to the library.

Our
FRIENDLY STAFF
are on hand to
help you when
you arrive.



See insights

Boost a post

20

2

Like

Comment

Send

Share

Most relevant ▾



Comment as Barnsley Libraries



I agree. The staff at Barnsley library are amazing. Big shout out to the fabulous Beth and Nic who always have time for a chat.

1 w [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Hide](#) 4



Thankyou for your help, patience and kindness you all give .

1 w [Like](#) [Reply](#) [Hide](#)

We work with the Good Things Foundation to distribute free SIMs and mobile data to local people living in data poverty – the National DataBank scheme is supported by UK mobile

networks including Vodafone, O2 and Three. This is promoted to our partners who support people seeking sanctuary as well as directly to people seeking sanctuary during our outreach sessions.

We also gained devices as part of Good Things Foundations DeviceBank scheme to distribute to local people who meet the criteria. As we were given a small number of devices we decided not to advertise this service as a global offer but to connect with partners to offer these devices directly out to people seeking sanctuary in Barnsley as well as other vulnerable people in the community. This gives people the opportunity to find and access services by providing them with free access to the internet from their phone.

We have hosted other services within the library who are able to support people seeking sanctuary. For example, the Digital Champions within the council offered ESOL digital support sessions within our libraries. The promotional flyers for this was also shared out in other languages, including Albanian as given below:



We recognise that volunteering can help people gain confidence, meet new people, boost their CV and learn new

skills. We welcome volunteers into our service and our library teams. Volunteers are supported during their time in our libraries both by a dedicated Volunteer Coordinator and by library staff, who they will get to know well and work alongside during their time in our libraries.

We offer volunteer opportunities in a variety of different roles, and these can be as flexible as the person volunteering wishes them to be. We offer flexibility to drop in and out of volunteering as and when the volunteer's circumstances require.

Some volunteers prefer to contribute to one-off events and activities, whilst others prefer to volunteer each week in our libraries. We also offer short-term placements, including work experience placements and Duke of Edinburgh placements. These are particularly popular with school students.

We don't have any restrictions on who can volunteer in our library service. Importantly, the opportunities we offer are for volunteers rather than voluntary workers, which means that we do not need to check the volunteer's right to work in the UK. Our volunteering opportunities are available for refugees, asylum seekers, those who are awaiting or appealing a decision.

Volunteers can choose between a range of different roles, including supporting to run additional activities in libraries, in the community as library champions or doing general library tasks such as shelving and creating displays. We also offer the opportunity for prospective volunteers to try out different tasks and activities in a taster session so they can see the different activities on offer and choose what suits them best.

Prospective volunteers can apply at any time to our service, and we also advertise specific opportunities that arise through the local voluntary services website and beyond.

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE CHAMPION @BARNSELY LIBRARIES

Hosted by: Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council - Libraries

- Are you 11-23 years old?
- Do you have a couple of hours a week to spare over the summer?
- Would you like to gain valuable skills...

CODE CLUB VOLUNTEERS

Hosted by: Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council - Libraries

Does your mind buzz with ideas when you hear the words 'Scratch', 'Python' and 'Raspberry Pi'? Would you like to help our young people learn how...

LEGO CLUB VOLUNTEERS

Hosted by: Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council - Libraries

We have the bricks! Do you have the enthusiasm to make this an exciting and engaging club that families will talk about all week?
Could you...

Lego Club Volunteers

Hosted by: Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council - Libraries

We have the bricks! Do you have the enthusiasm to make this an exciting and engaging club that families will talk about all week?

Could you spare a couple of hours a week and help Lego Club be fantastic in your local library? Lego Club is incredible because it gets all ages together to have fun, play with engineering ideas, and learn how to share the special bricks with others in the group.

As a Lego Club Volunteer, you will help children and families to create something from their imagination using Lego, setting challenges to the group, and including everyone to create the most awesome team efforts! You will gain experience of working with young people in a relaxed setting which could be useful for future careers in education - and you will certainly learn some new Lego-tricks to impress your friends with!

Opportunities are available at a number of our libraries across the borough. Days and times vary according to the location.

Days required: Mon PM, Tues PM, Weds PM, Thur PM, Sat AM

How many volunteers are needed:

5

Recruitment process:

Click 'Register Interest' below and enter a few details, and you will then be contacted and asked to complete an application form. We will then be in touch to arrange an informal interview to discuss the role. We aim to complete the onboarding process within a month.

Skills and qualifications:

- Able to complete tasks independently without needing too much direction
- Excellent people skills
- Able to encourage and engage children, young people, and families

*Barnsley Library volunteering opportunities recently advertised
on barnsleycvs.org.uk*

Apply to become a volunteer at Barnsley Libraries

About you

Why are you interested in volunteering with us?

Which volunteer role are you applying for? (optional)

If you're applying for a specific volunteer role, please tell us the title of the role.

An excerpt of Barnsley Libraries' online volunteer application form

Prospective volunteers apply through our website by completing a short online form. They will then be contacted by our dedicated Volunteer Coordinator who will arrange to meet them, give them a tour of the library, introduce them to staff members, give them information about the current opportunities for volunteering in the library service and give an informal interview.

We do ask for references, however it is not a problem if they don't know anyone – when they have volunteered with us for some time a member of staff will provide a retrospective reference based on their time with the volunteer in the library.

We currently have 29 active volunteers across our service, including 10 who are signed up to support our Conversation Café and work together to coordinate their attendance. Others include 3 Library Ambassadors, 23 supporting a variety of other regular groups and activities, work experience and Duke of Edinburgh placements and Summer Reading Challenge Champions.

Accessibility of paid for events

As well as inviting people seeking sanctuary to our events and activities in the library on a regular basis, we have also worked to ensure that our small number of events that have a cost are accessible to people seeking sanctuary. During our first Barnsley Book Festival in 2024, we issued 'Golden Tickets' to partners who support people seeking sanctuary to ensure they could attend our paid-for events without cost. These 'Golden Tickets' were sent directly to those partners who have a close relationship with people seeking sanctuary for them to disseminate. These partners, including Feels Like Home, play an involved and supportive role in accompanying people seeking sanctuary to events. Reaching out to these partners ensured that this opportunity reached people seeking sanctuary, which enhanced accessibility of these events.

We also made Golden Tickets available to other groups, including those on an unemployment or disability benefit, students, people under 21 and senior citizens. This information was included on the promotional brochure and required these groups to contact the team to request a Golden Ticket. They were required to give some proof of eligibility, whereas those who were invited directly through our partners, including Feels Like Home, didn't need to bring anything with them or make a direct booking.

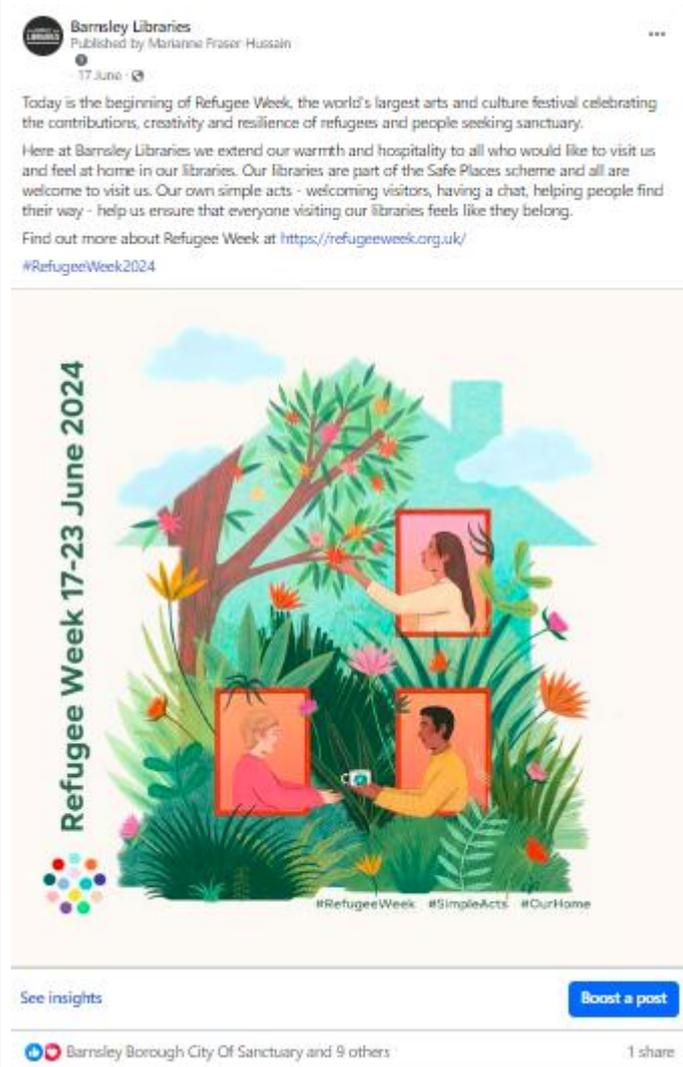
Refugee Week

Refugee Week is a global arts and cultural festival which celebrates the contributions, creativity and resilience of refugees and people seeking sanctuary.

Barnsley Libraries has celebrated Refugee Week in previous years in a number of ways, including a Refutea in 2018 which brought together people seeking sanctuary and the settled community in Barnsley to enjoy food, music and dancing together, and a Samba workshop as part of our Biblio Beats Festival in 2023.

Refugee Week this year was from 17-23 June and we celebrated this week through events, activities, promotion of our stock and digital curations.

We marked the beginning of Refugee Week by giving our public welcome to all who would like to visit us and feel at home in our libraries.



We delivered 5 different events over the week, including 4 performances of 'Refuge Island' and 2 performances of 'The Giant's Blankets'.

Refuge Island is an exhilarating 20-minute dance performance by Whispered Tales that explores stories of female migration and the human capacity to offer a place of refuge in times of crisis, followed by a Q&A with the director and performers.

The Giant's Blankets is a family friendly storytelling and stay and play by Claire Weetman, where a lonely giant shelters from the storm under a mountain of blankets. Travelling two giant steps at a time, she secretly gifts her blankets of kindness and

care to people and animals in the town and eventually feels part of a community.

We promoted these throughout our networks, with Refugee Council, Feels Like Home, the Conversation Cafe, Barnsley Borough City of Sanctuary, Penistone Refugee and Asylum Support Group as well as on our social media channels, through the internal council newsletter, the libraries' public newsletter and within the library. We also offered 3 'invite only' performances of Refuge Island to our partners and people seeking sanctuary in Barnsley and 1 public lunchtime performance.

— BARNESLEY —
LIBRARIES

WELCOMES YOU

FREE EVENTS AT LIBRARY @ THE LIGHTBOX

Refugee Week 17-23 June 2024



#RefugeeWeek #SimpleActs #OurHome

EVERYONE IS WELCOME



MINDFUL MANDALAS

Mon 17 June

5-6.30pm

Drop in - no need to book



REFUGE ISLAND

Lunchtime dance performance and Q&A

Tues 18 June

1.30-2.15pm

Book - barnsley.gov.uk/libraryevents



CAREFREE CALLIGRAPHY

Wed 19 June

5-6.30pm

Drop in - no need to book



CROCHET KIDS

Fri 21 June

4-4.45pm

Ages 8 and up - drop in



THE GIANT'S BLANKETS

Storytelling Performance

Sat 22 June, 11am and 1.30pm

Ages 3-7

Book - barnsley.gov.uk/libraryevents



Arts Council
ENGLAND

BARNLEY
LIBRARIES



Refugee
Week

We encouraged book displays across our libraries and shared a list of relevant books located in different branches with staff to support them in choosing reading materials for a Refugee Week display in their library. We also shared out relevant picture books and craft ideas to staff across our library branches for their Story and Rhyme sessions to embed our message of welcome, kindness and compassion.

We have a diverse selection of books in our stock that help to mark #RefugeeWeek - here's a display of fiction and non-fiction books all about migration stories at Hoyland Library. This year's theme is 'Our Home' so why not pop along to Hoyland Library and make yourself 'at home' as you find your next read. 📖 🗺️

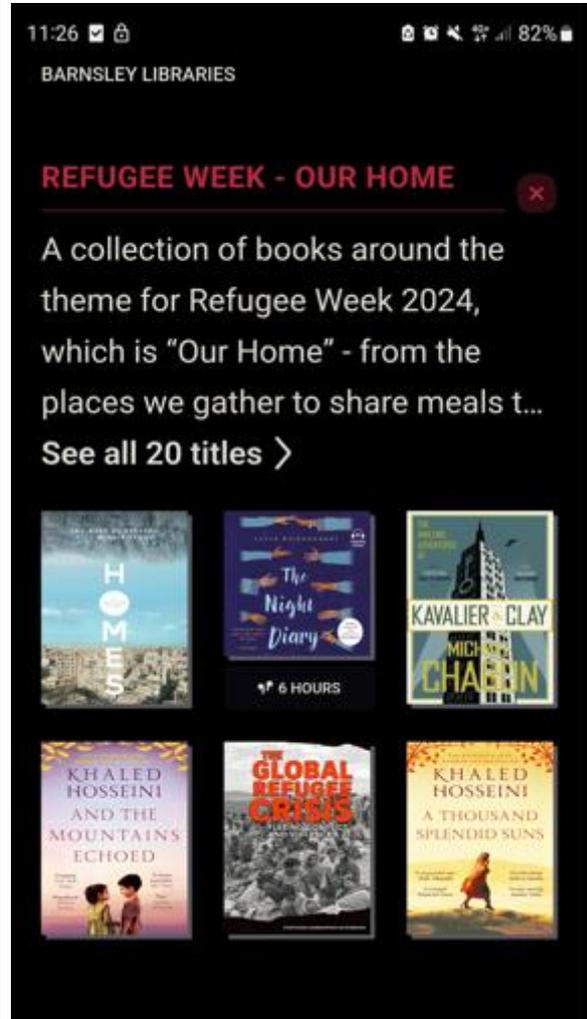
More about Hoyland Library>> <https://tinyurl.com/2fsczeyw>

Our online catalogue>> <https://tinyurl.com/5436zpm9>

Refugee Council Barnsley Borough City Of Sanctuary



As well as promoting stock in our libraries, we also purchased new digital e-books and produced a curation on our Libby app and promoted this during Refugee Week.



Refugee Week is a global arts and cultural festival which celebrates the contributions, creativity and resilience of refugees and people seeking sanctuary. This year's theme is "Our Home" - from the places we gather to share meals to our collective home, planet earth. You will find a special collection of adult and junior fiction and nonfiction books chronicling the refugee experience on our digital reading app, Libby: <https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/.../ebooks-audio-and-.../> #RefugeeWeek



The stats sheets below gives an overview of our celebration of Refugee Week as well as the attendance and feedback:



**Refugee
Week**

**BARNSLEY
LIBRARIES**



5 EVENTS

**INCLUDING 4 PERFORMANCES
OF 'REFUGE ISLAND'
AND 2 PERFORMANCES OF
'THE GIANT'S BLANKETS'**

**WE ALSO HAD A MANDALA WORKSHOP, A CALLIGRAPHY
WORKSHOP AND A CROCHET WORKSHOP FOR KIDS**

152 ATTENDEES

**INCLUDING 82 ATTENDEES AT
'REFUGE ISLAND'
PERFORMANCES**



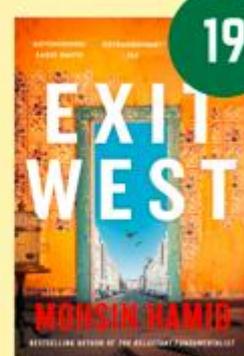
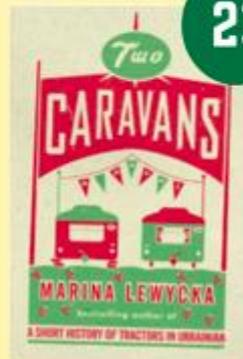
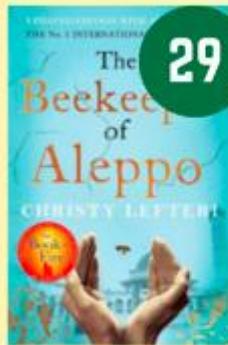


£850

**OF NPO FUNDING
FOR PERFORMANCES BY
WHISPERED TALES
AND CLAIRE WEETMAN**

E-BOOK LOANS

OUR REFUGEE WEEK LIBBY CURATION, PROMOTED DURING REFUGEE WEEK - THESE ARE THE NUMBER OF E-BOOK LOANS FOR SOME OF THOSE TITLES SINCE THE BEGINNING OF REFUGEE WEEK (DATA COLLECTED 18/7/24)



FEEDBACK

**IT TAKES ME RIGHT BACK TO HOW WE DANCED AT HOME.
WONDERFUL TO SEE TODAY**

**A PRIVILEGE TO HAVE AN AMAZING RANGE OF STORIES
REPRESENTED IN THE PERFORMANCE.**

MAGICAL - A LOVELY PERFORMANCE, REALLY CREATIVE AND IMAGINATIVE

THANK YOU [REDACTED] VERY INFORMATIVE

**THE PERFORMANCE WAS POWERFUL AND THE STAGING WITH THE TRAFFIC
CONE (VIDEO INPUT) BROUGHT A LOT OF DEPTH OUT IN THE STORIES**

**REALLY ENJOYABLE, MY DAUGHTER WHO IS 3 WAS FULLY ENJOYING THE
STORY AND LOVED THE DEN BUILDING**

**VERY HAPPY TO SEE THE CHILDREN ENGAGED AND EXCITED, STORY WAS
JUST LONG ENOUGH TO MAINTAIN THEIR ATTENTION**

**IT WAS LOVELY THE PERFORMERS SHARED IN THE Q&A THEIR STORIES
ABOUT MIGRATION AND TOLD US WHAT QUALIFICATIONS THEY HOLD
FROM UK UNIVERSITIES. GREAT ASPIRATIONAL STORY FOR THE
AUDIENCE TO HEAR FROM A RELATIVELY NEW MIGRANT!**

MY TWO KIDS, LOVED THIS, MY SON IS AUTISTIC AND LOVED IT

**ALLOWING CHILDREN AN OPPORTUNITY TO LISTEN AND USE THEIR
IMAGINATION AND GIVING THEM LOTS OF PATIENCE**

The partners we engaged with during Refugee Week included Whispered Tales and [REDACTED] who were both commissioned to deliver performances.

Refugee Council, ELSH, Penistone Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support Group, Barnsley Borough City of Sanctuary, ESOL departments at Wellington House and at Barnsley College, their students, clients and groups were all invited to our invite only performances of Refuge Island.

Other partners we reached out to included Feels Like Home, Barnsley College Performing Arts department and numerous local primary schools.

The table below shows the number of times e-books from our Refugee Week curation have been borrowed since Refugee Week (data collected 18/07/2024). Some of these are new e-books purchased as part of our contribution to Refugee Week and others have been in our collection for years.

Book Title	Issues
When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit	3
The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay	4
And the Mountains Echoed	14
The Beekeeper of Aleppo	29
Boy 87	6
Don't Stop Thinking About Tomorrow	1
The Eleventh Trade	3
Exit West	19
The Global Refugee Crisis: Fleeing Conflict and Violence	1
Homes: A Refugee Story	2
The Kite Runner	16
The Lightless Sky: An Afghan Refugee Boy's Journey of Escape to A New Life in Britain	3
A Long Petal of the Sea	6
The Night Diary	5
No Ballet Shoes in Syria	5
Not Safe	2
Outcasts United: A Refugee Team, an American Town	2
Refugee Boy	5
A Thousand Splendid Suns	12
The Good Immigrant	3
Prisoners of Geography	8
What Strange Paradise	17
The Unforgotten Coat	1
Illegal	9
Two Caravans	23
How to Pronouce Knife	5
The road home	3

Share

Criterion 6:

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.

We offer a positive vision of a culture of welcome and hospitality to all by publicly committing to the City of Sanctuary vision of welcome. We have done this by stating our pledge to the City of Sanctuary charter on our website. We have also included on this webpage clear and concise information about the library service as well as partners' support services available. This webpage is a 'one-stop' page where people seeking sanctuary can pick up all the information they need to know about the library, and the other support services available without needing to navigate around the website. The translation option also allows for this webpage to be read in 133 different languages.

[How our libraries support people seeking sanctuary \(barnsley.gov.uk\)](https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/how-our-libraries-support-people-seeking-sanctuary)

Criterion 7: 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.

We celebrate and promote the welcome and contribution of people seeking sanctuary by offering a visible welcome within our libraries, on our website and social media channels and also by holding and promoting relevant stock.

In our flagship Library @ the Lightbox we have a welcome message rolling on our promotional screens on each floor, giving a welcoming 'hello' to visitors in many languages.



We regularly create book displays which promotes and celebrates the diversity within our borough and by displaying our stock in other/dual languages on our social media channels we expand the visibility of our welcome to beyond our library buildings.





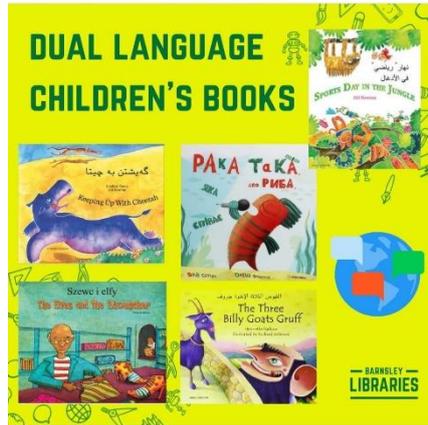
Barnsley Libraries

24 May · 🌐



We have a wide range of dual language children's books in our collection, including Arabic, Ukrainian, Kurdish, Polish and Chinese. Just search the Barnsley Libraries catalogue and under 'advanced search', specify which language you require:

[#https://barns.ent.sirsidynix.net.uk/client/en_GB/default/search/results?te=#homerivers](https://barns.ent.sirsidynix.net.uk/client/en_GB/default/search/results?te=#homerivers) #duallanguage



👍 6



Barnsley Libraries

16 Mar 2021 · 🌐



Halo! Buna ziua! Sveiki! Olá! Hello! Here's a selection of books in our foreign language collection. We also have children's books. Languages include Latvian, Romanian, Polish, Portuguese, Urdu, Arabic, French, Italian, German and Russian.

#languages #conversationcafe



👍 5

1 share



Barnsley Libraries

12 Feb · 🌐



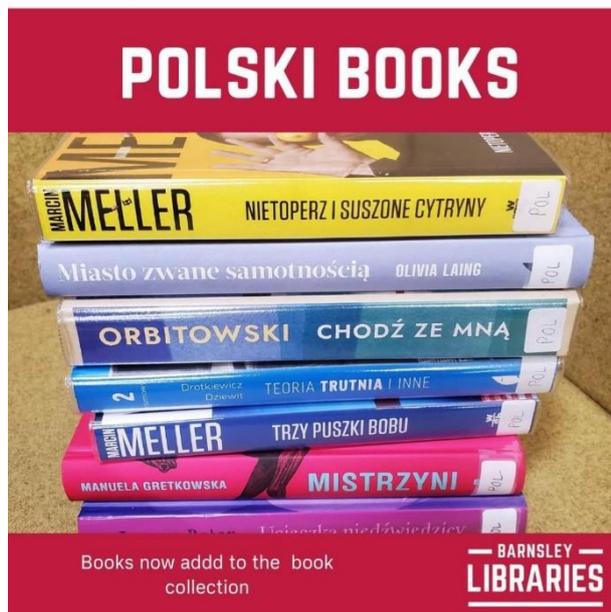
Come and take a look at the newly added books to the Polish book collection at Library@theLightbox.

Why not have a look at our library catalogue:

<https://barns.ent.sirsiidynix.net.uk/>

#BarnsleyLibraries #Books

#Library@theLightbox





Barnsley Libraries

Published by Marianne Fraser-Hussain · 10h · 🌐

We have a diverse selection of books in our stock that help to mark #RefugeeWeek - here's a display of fiction and non-fiction books all about migration stories at Hoyland Library. This year's theme is 'Our Home' so why not pop along to Hoyland Library and make yourself 'at home' as you find your next read. 📖 🧡

More about Hoyland Library >> <https://tinyurl.com/2fsceyew>

Our online catalogue >> <https://tinyurl.com/5436zpm9>

Refugee Council Barnsley Borough City Of Sanctuary



See insights

Boost a post

👤 Barnsley Borough City Of Sanctuary and 2 others

1 🗨️

These small acts of showing a visible welcome and shining a light on the contributions of people seeking sanctuary help demonstrate a culture of welcome within our libraries. They have also helped people seeking sanctuary to feel welcomed into our library and have helped spark conversation between visitors and library staff.

Feedback:

██████ library visitor: I would like to say that I do feel the library is a nice place to come to and I feel like I'm home when I walk in the door and can see, the books in

Ukrainian is the first thing I see when I walk in the door and that feels like a part of home came with me.

Our digital stock and resources also visibly celebrates the contribution of people seeking sanctuary by sharing stories of refugee and sanctuary experiences, particularly during themed weeks such as Refugee Week. These titles are placed front and centre on our eBooks website and app during these weeks and new titles are also purchased.



Our Stories From Around the World project is promoted on our [website](#) and is another way of visibly welcoming the diverse nationalities and families in Barnsley and showcasing their contribution to the project and the book created by them.

Enriching lives

From stories and novels to factual publications, our collection of fiction and non-fiction books is enhanced by hundreds of [eBooks and eAudio](#) titles online.

Books are only the beginning of what's on offer; a range of engaging [activities and events](#) take place in our libraries for people of all ages. These include story and rhyme, code club and readers' groups. We also have sessions such as our music and memories group. This is supported by [Alzheimer's Society](#), for people with dementia and their carers.

Memory bags

Stories and rhymes book

We've launched a multi lingual stories and rhymes book which celebrates diversity.

We worked with the Feels Like Home group on a six month project. It's aim was to welcome families into Library @ the Lightbox, from a wide range of nationalities. The Stories From Around The World book reflects the range of groups and languages that make up Barnsley today.

You can borrow the book from any of our libraries. You can also [access it online](#). [Read the press release](#).

Our 'Suitcase of Belonging' exhibition, and the 2018 project with Penistone Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support Group helped to publicly showcase the skillset and contribution of people seeking sanctuary within our borough. Many people seeking sanctuary who contributed to these projects spoke of their skills, occupations, education or careers, either current or previous, as well as speaking of their hopes and ambitions to continue contributing within the UK. They also spoke about their interests and activities and the ways in which they contribute to the community in Barnsley.

I have worked as a builder and I think that I am good at the job.

I would like to stay in the United Kingdom and I want to work regularly so that I can be a part of my community.

I love football and making music with a guitar and drums.

I trained and worked as a bricklayer and I would want to do that here.

I studied and became an electrical engineer. I worked as an electrical engineer in the Cameroon. I worked in the construction industry and acquired many skills. In Germany I worked as a van driver, but I can do more than this. My hope would be to settle permanently in Barnsley and to find work as an electrical engineer or an electrician.

I studied accountancy at university and I trained to be an accountant. I worked as a company assistant. My interests include football and drumming.

I am working and earning money which helps me to take care of myself and my family.

I am proud of my skills, I am an experienced hairdresser.

I am proud of being able to work outside of my country. My dream job is to work for a pharmaceutical company.

Barnsley helped me find my first job and kept me busy with different activities and classes, English conversation groups, going on trips and visiting the library.

Proudly exhibiting these courageous accounts from people seeking sanctuary helps demonstrate our commitment to a culture of welcome.

Reclaiming Narratives

Barnsley Libraries became an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation in 2023, with funding secured to bring a whole range of exciting arts and cultural activities to Libraries across the borough.

We're currently looking for an artist/s to creatively respond to the theme of this year's Black History Month 'Reclaiming Narratives'. We're open to ideas about what this work might be, it could be to host an exhibition, an open mic night, creative workshops or any other creative ideas the artist may wish to explore. This commission is for £2000, using any art form to respond to the brief with the final part of the activity to take place during Black History Month, 1 - 31 October.

We hope that this will be an opportunity to celebrate the contribution of people seeking sanctuary, though we have consciously kept the brief minimal to ensure we don't 'shape' the project ourselves, but we do expect the project to give more visibility to the many facets of this year's Black History Month theme of 'Reclaiming Narratives'.

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

Barnsley Libraries values our local partners and organisations who contribute significantly to the lives of people seeking sanctuary in and around Barnsley.

Partnership with Barnsley Borough City of Sanctuary

We engage regularly with Barnsley Borough City of Sanctuary, supporting them by attending their meetings and events, inviting them to the library for events, activities and awareness opportunities and sharing with them updates on our libraries work and the offers we have available for people seeking sanctuary. They have raised awareness in our libraries through stalls and exhibitions.

Minutes Barnsley Borough City of Sanctuary 6-12-2023

Apologies [REDACTED]

Present [REDACTED]

Minutes None

Libraries of Sanctuary KP gave a full update on the progress being made.

Visit has been made to Calderdale library. Working towards a submission on March 24th.

Head of service and director all on board and enthusiasm from library team.

Already lots of targets met: Safe space; free to join; flyers in different languages; outreach work (migration partnership); some dual language picture books; conversation café; volunteer opportunities; signposting events; online activities; some free pcs made available; free photocopying and wifi; scheme to gift some SIM cards. Finding appropriate books in other languages is a challenge.

All libraries in Barnsley are part of submission.

*Meeting minutes from Barnsley Borough City of Sanctuary Steering Group
10 January 2024*

Libraries: ██████ reminded us that ██████ had given an enlightening resume of our libraries in working toward becoming Libraries of Sanctuary in the near future.

██████████ project leader of this important work, gave a comprehensive update, useful for those who had not been at the last meeting.

After explaining the context of the award, ██████ confirmed that the 14 individual libraries in the Borough would all be included in the bid and the award which lasts 3 years before being re-applied for. She then described the useful work she has been able to do with the Calderdale Library service (Halifax)

Every library offers books, e-books, e-newspapers and IT facilities. There are children's groups, the Conversation Cafe and many other ways of interacting with residents. There is a touring exhibition, presently at Cudworth, see website for an up-to-date venue.

All libraries are Warm Spaces, safe spaces, a regular venue for many other organisations. They were privileged to have John Vincent as a training officer. Moving on, ██████ referred to Refugee Week, 17th - 23rd June; welcoming dance and performance that is to highlight issues within female migration.

██████████ also introduced us to the Barnsley Book Festival Friday 2 February until Saturday 23 March. See website, loads of events!

In the discussion ██████ enquired about reading & writing skills ██████ responded, explaining who provided that training, some of which would take place in a library. ██████ asked about reader's groups. ██████ suggested they meet. She finally added that our 15 copies of the amazing Newsletter were always well received, I responded that we were pleased to get them into every library as we know they are read by users with a wide range of views, including some hostile!

Secretary's Report from Barnsley Borough City of Sanctuary July 2024

3. Refugee Week 2024

Winners of the Barnsley Borough City of Sanctuary Art and Poetry Competition 2024 were presented with certificates and book tokens by the Mayor of Barnsley Cllr John Clark JP at Barnsley Town Hall on Friday 21st June 2024. The theme for this year was Welcome and the winners were ██████

Barnsley Libraries are doing some fantastic work to make our Libraries a place of welcome for all. I attended one of the excellent Refugee Island dance performances organised by Barnsley Library on Tuesday 8th June 2024.



Barnsley Borough City Of Sanctuary

29 August 2023 · 🌐



Thanks Ed Clancy for Presenting the 100th bike to be renovated and distributed this morning in Barnsley Town Centre



👍❤️ 5

3 ➡

Barnsley Borough City of Sanctuary outside Library @ the Lightbox for their bike presentation to celebrate the 100th bike renovation and gifting by volunteer ██████ at the Recycled Bike Scheme. The bike was presented to a Barnsley resident by 3x Olympic Champion, 6x World Champion cyclist Ed Clancy OBE.



Barnsley Borough City Of Sanctuary

14 July 2023 · 🌐



Excellent world music event in Barnsley town centre this afternoon

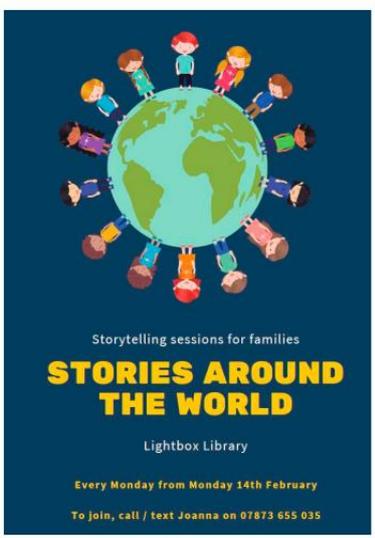


👍❤️ 3

1 ➡

Barnsley Borough City of Sanctuary stall by the entrance of Library @ the Lightbox during Barnsley's Big Weekend, July 2023

We regularly submit articles and information to be included in their newsletter for which we are thankful. We have previously included adverts for our weekly Conversation Café group, our Stories From Around The World project as well as articles about our libraries. Upcoming newsletters will feature our translated flyers and we will also be grateful to have the successes of our Refugee Week activities added to the upcoming newsletter.



Storytelling sessions for families

STORIES AROUND THE WORLD

Lightbox Library

Every Monday from Monday 14th February

To join, call / text Joanna on 07873 655 035

Come and share stories, learn new skills and develop your English Language!

- Access books from Barnsley Libraries
- Learn new English for telling stories
- Learn new storytelling techniques with famous storyteller Richard O'Neill
- Share stories from around the world
- Help to create an international collection of stories for Barnsley Library storytelling sessions
- Have the chance to perform your story in front of an audience (if you want to!)

Entry in the Barnsley Borough City of Sanctuary March 2022 newsletter

A Library of Sanctuary in Barnsley

Public libraries play an important role in welcoming refugees and people seeking sanctuary in local communities. Libraries of Sanctuary is a network of librarians, library staff, community groups and book lovers who are raising awareness of the issues facing people in the asylum system, offering support and participation opportunities, and contributing to a culture of welcome in the wider community.

██████████ Engagement Officer at Barnsley Libraries, writes:

Barnsley Libraries is currently working towards getting its "Libraries of Sanctuary Award". Libraries in their nature are warm welcoming places that strive to be accessible to all, but as part of our work to gain the award, we've been looking at ways to improve our services to make them even more welcoming and inclusive to those seeking sanctuary.

We already host a Conversation Café every Monday at 10am at the Library@theLightbox which is open to everyone to come and practise their English and meet new people (see Page 6). We have foreign language books, e-newspapers in different languages and a variety of free children's and adults' activities. We celebrated Refugee Week this year by inviting a samba band into the library on the 22nd June and promoting books exploring themes of seeking sanctuary in our libraries.

In 2022 we released a book called "Stories From Around the World" which was created in collaboration with Feels Like Home. Members of Feels Like Home shared nursery rhymes and fairy tales from their countries and songs in their first language, which were then presented in the book alongside English translations. The multi-lingual book includes stories, rhymes and songs in 11 languages and is available at all Barnsley Libraries branches and through the online resources.

You can also read a digital version of the book on our website:

We're looking at ways we can build on what we already offer to people seeking sanctuary and working towards the Libraries of Sanctuary Award gives us the framework to do this.

What is...

City of Sanctuary
www.cityofsanctuary.org.uk

BARNSELEY'S BIG WEEKEND

FREE!

Friday 14 to Sunday 16 July 2023

BARNSELEY GOES GLOBAL - FRIDAY 14 JULY 2023

Library @ the Lightbox

- Fun samba drumming workshops for children at 1pm and 4pm
- Pick up a children's world stories book to take home
- Barnsley City of Sanctuary and Schwäbisch Gmünd Twin Town Society stalls
- Wear colourful butterfly wings and get into the carnival spirit from 2-7pm

The Glass Works Square

- Enjoy free live music on the outdoor stage from 4.30-8pm
- Performances from Taiwan, Japan, India, Germany, Austria, and Barnsley!
- Plus learn dances from across the world with Feels Like Home Group at intervals from 4.30-6pm

Monday Means Conversation!

A Conversation Café has been open in the Central Library in Barnsley, Library@theLightbox, for a number of years and it has provided a safe space where people from different home countries and with varied cultural backgrounds can meet to chat and feel more confident in their use of spoken English. The Café meets each Monday at 10am for a couple of hours in The Lightbox and is supported by a number of volunteers drawn mainly from the Penistone Refugee and Asylum Seekers Support Group.

Each week we choose a different topic to focus our conversation on and this year we have talked about books, music, great painters, the environment and, always a favourite, food. What we have found is that, to quote Jo Cox, the former MP for Batley and Spen, "there is more that unites us than divides us".

But, what do our friends have to say about the Conversation Café?

■■■■■ says that, "It helps me to learn about English culture, for instance your food. It helps me to get to know people and say hello to them on the street. It improves my sense of belonging. You can talk in English".

■■■■■ says, "The Conversation Café gives me the chance to explore culture, local interesting things and to know more about the place where I live. It not only gives me a chance to develop my spoken English, but to develop my individuality".

"The Conversation Café is people from different cultures talking about shared experiences" said ■■■■■ who is one of the volunteers.

A couple of the regular members shared that, "I'm talking, speaking and learning English every week" and, "It's a very good experience to learn different cultures and an opportunity to meet new people".

■■■■■ (one of our volunteers) best expressed the purpose and value of the Conversation Café when she said, "It is lovely to see newcomers begin to bloom and grow in confidence".

Who would have thought that chatting in Barnsley could achieve so much!
To join, just turn up at Library@TheLightbox at 10am on Monday mornings.

Entries and adverts in Barnsley Borough City of Sanctuary July 2023 newsletter

Libraries of Sanctuary

Public libraries play an important role in welcoming refugees and people seeking sanctuary in our communities. 'Libraries of Sanctuary' is a network of librarians, library staff, community groups and book lovers who are raising awareness of the issues facing people in the asylum system, offering support and participation opportunities, and contributing to a culture of welcome in the wider community.

The Library of Sanctuary award recognises and celebrates the libraries that go above and beyond to show solidarity and welcome. Any library can apply for the award. Libraries of Sanctuary are supported by the City of Sanctuary movement. Find out more at: <https://libraries.cityofsanctuary.org/>

**BARNSELY
LIBRARIES**

We have 14 libraries across the Borough – each and every one strives to always be a welcoming, inclusive and accessible place for everyone in Barnsley to visit, socialise, read, learn and discover.

We offer a wide range of services, from free printing and photocopying, to books, e-books and e-newspapers both in English and in other languages. We also host a wide range of regular groups and activities for adults and for children and families to learn, socialise or develop skills.

For asylum seekers and refugees, we have our Conversation Café on Monday mornings at 10am at Library @ the Lightbox.

We are privileged to work alongside committed and valuable volunteers to offer an informal space for people to come and practise their English. We are also a visible supporter of people seeking sanctuary, promoting books exploring the themes of sanctuary in book displays.

As part of our ongoing work towards the Libraries of Sanctuary Award (see above), we have celebrated the following achievements this past year:

- Introduced new stock in other languages.
- Introduced a translated 'hello' poster to our rolling advert screens in Library @ the Lightbox.
- We are currently touring an exhibition across all our libraries called 'Suitcase of Belonging' which is loaned from our kind partners at the Refugee Council. This is an interactive exhibition about those who have made Barnsley their home and the importance of being accepted and belonging in society. Look out for it in your local library.
- We have had flyers translated into eight different languages outlining services and opportunities in our libraries.



- We continue to look for new opportunities to deliver outreach to support people in Barnsley to access our libraries, including attending the Multi-Agency Drop-in at Hope House on Wednesdays as frequently as we can.
- We have connected with other library services in Yorkshire to share best practice, including Calderdale Libraries who have been successful in gaining the Libraries of Sanctuary Award in the past year, as well as Leeds Libraries, who are just beginning their journey.
- We've got something exciting coming up for Refugee Week, so keep an eye out for it!

We look forward to continuing to improve what we offer and we are proud to be making progress in our Libraries of Sanctuary work. Get in touch if you'd like us to visit your social/community group to offer info about our library services, or if you have ideas or suggestions for us. You can get in touch with [REDACTED]

You can also keep up to date with Barnsley Libraries by following us on social media:
Facebook – @BarnsleyLibraries | Instagram – @barnsleylibraries | Twitter – @BarnsleyLibs



More books in other languages added to our stock at Barnsley Libraries - Kindly donated by the University of Sheffield.

Entry to the Barnsley Borough City of Sanctuary March 2024 newsletter

Libraries Celebrate Refugee Week

We celebrated Refugee Week at Barnsley Libraries with a great line up of activities, including alternative nights out, lunchtime performances and family storytelling stay and plays.

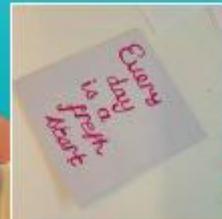
We started by taking some time out of our busy lives to enjoy the mindful art of designing mandalas – it was an opportunity to connect, talk and create a pattern that reflected our individuality.



On Tuesday, we were treated to a powerful dance performance from [Whispered Tales](#) 'Refuge Island' told the story of female migration and the human capacity to offer a place of refuge in times of crisis. It was fabulous to hear everyone's thoughts about the themes raised by the performance at the Q&A afterwards.



We then spent a carefree evening creating some calligraphy. It was a chance to try our hand at something different, have a chat and a few laughs and connect with others. Everyone brought their own individuality and found their own style – what a lovely way to celebrate ourselves and each other.



We were delighted to offer this after-school Crochet Kids session on Friday afternoon! It looks like it will become a regular group for us as the children who came had a fantastic time making a 'worry worm' and learning the basics of crochet. They also went home with a crochet hook and some yarn to continue trying out their newfound skills at home.



On Saturday, we welcomed Claire Weetman into the Children's Library for two special performances of her story *The Giant's Blankets*. Claire tells the story of a lonely giant who lives on a mountain and shelters underneath several blankets. The giant discreetly shares blankets to aid villagers during a storm. By the end of the tale, the giant is welcomed and thanked, illustrating the moral of belonging and kindness to the listeners. Afterwards, Claire engaged with the children by making dens with the blankets, creating mosaic pictures of the giant using felt and helping them colour and design their own blanket.



A **Conversation Café** has been open in the Central Library in Barnsley for a number of years and it has provided a safe space where people from different home countries and with varied cultural backgrounds can meet to chat and feel more confident in their use of spoken English. The Café meets each Monday at 10am for a couple of hours in The Lighbox and is supported by a number of volunteers drawn mainly from the Penistone Refugee and Asylum Seekers Support Group. You can find this same flyer in different languages on these links.



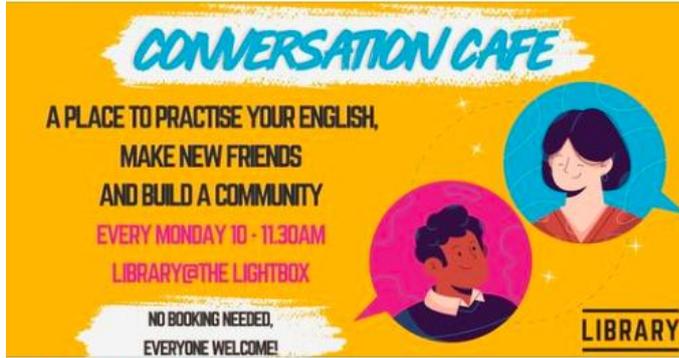
Entry to the Barnsley Borough City of Sanctuary July 2024 newsletter

We are also very thankful that Barnsley Borough City of Sanctuary promotes our events and activities, particularly our weekly Conversation Café, on their social media channels and on their website. We also thank them for including us in their 'welcome pack' which is sent to Mears properties to new arrivals in Barnsley.



Barnsley Borough City Of Sanctuary created an event.

2 January 2023 · 🌐



MON, 3 APR 2023

Conversation Cafe

Barnsley

You've checked in to Barnsley Library the Lightbo...

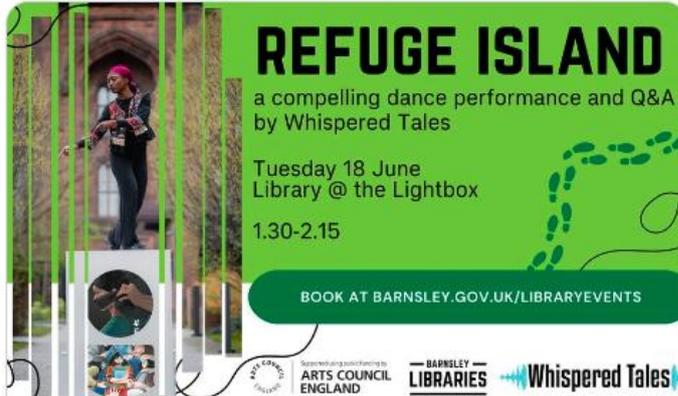
☆ Interested

👍 2



Barnsley Borough City Of Sanctuary

3 days ago · 🌐



Barnsley Libraries

Published by Marianne Fraser-Hussain · 3 days ago · 🌐

We still have places available on this fantastic lunchtime performance for you coming up on Tuesday 18 June at Library @ the Lightbox!

Book your place at <https://BARNSELY.GOV.UK/LIBRARYEVENTS> See more

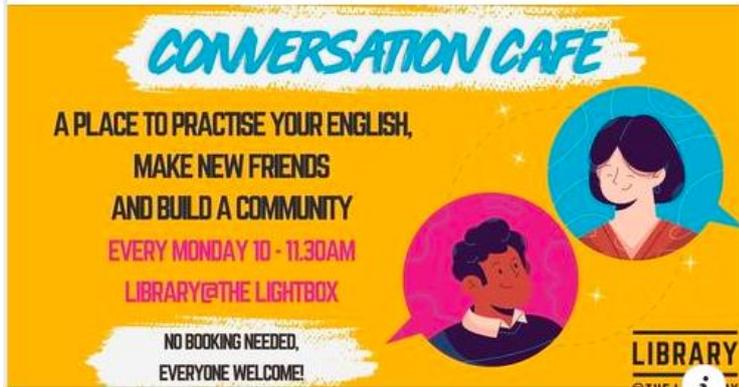


Barnsley Borough City Of Sanctuary

8 March · 🌐



Lightbox Conversation Cafe Flyers now available in 9 languages



BARNSLEY.CITYOFSANCTUARY.ORG

Conversation Cafe Every Monday Morning

Building a culture of hospitality for people seeking sanctuary



Barnsley Borough City Of Sanctuary

4 days ago · 🌐



BARNSELY LIBRARIES WELCOMES YOU

EVENTS AT LIBRARY @ THE LIGHTBOX

	MINDFUL MANDALAS Mon 17 June 5-6.30pm Drop in - no need to book
	REFUGE ISLAND Lunchtime dance performance at Tues 18 June 1.30-2.15pm Book - barnsley.gov.uk/libraryevents
	CAREFREE CALLIGRAPHY Wed 19 June 5-6.30pm Drop in - no need to book
	CROCHET KIDS Fri 21 June 4-4.45pm Ages 8+ drop in - no need to book
	THE GIANT'S BLANKETS Storytelling Performance Sat 22 June, 11am and 1.30pm Ages 3-7 Book - barnsley.gov.uk/libraryevents



Barnsley Borough City Of Sanctuary

19 May · 🌐



English conversation cafe 10m-11.30am every Monday at the Lightbox Central Library. All welcome



Partnership with Migration Partnership Barnsley

We are fortunate in Barnsley to have a fantastic drop-in session on Wednesday mornings for migrants to seek support from a wide range of organisations. Migration Partnership is a collaboration of Migrant Action, Feels Like Home, The Polish Library and ELSH who coordinates a weekly drop in for members of Barnsley's migrant communities to get information, support and advice on a wide range of issues. The drop-in occurs every Wednesday from 12.30pm-2.30pm and often offers themed weeks for relevant partners to attend and promote their services and offer advice.

Barnsley Libraries attends as regularly as staff capacity allows and we aim to attend at least once a month. We also hold translated flyers at the drop-in to be free for attendees to take on any weeks that we are unable to attend.

We have attended the drop-in 6 times between February and June 2024 where we have signed people up with library cards, chatted to people seeking sanctuary about their interests and about what we offer in libraries, shared translated flyers and gifted out 25 books for World Book Night at the drop-in on 24th April, with a whopping 115 books gifted out to our partners during the drop-in to take back to their clients. We also gifted books out during our Conversation Café in the library and in total gave out over 300 books during the week. We consciously made a choice to offer our World Book Night books out to our

migrant partners, drop-in attendees and group members as the books are Quick Reads, which are an easy and accessible way into practising reading in English.



Barnsley Libraries

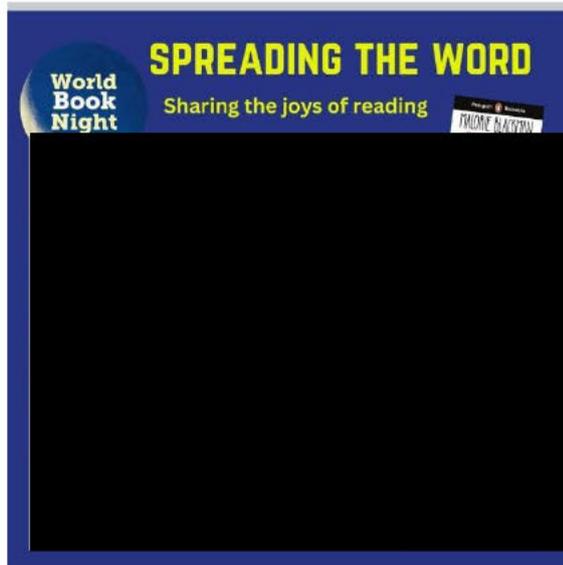
26 Apr · 🌐

Barnsley Libraries teamed up with The Reading Agency to celebrate World Book Night by handing out 300 free copies of Malorie Blackman's quick read 'Boys Don't Cry' to some of our migration partners. These photos show attendees and representatives from the weekly Migration Partnership Drop-In, Conversation Cafe at Library @ The Lightbox, Feels Like Home group, Educational Learning Support Hub (ELSH), Barnsley Refugee Council and Polska Biblioteka. Quick Reads are short books by bestselling authors that offer a route into reading in an accessible and easy-to-read style, hopefully sparking or reigniting the joy of reading.

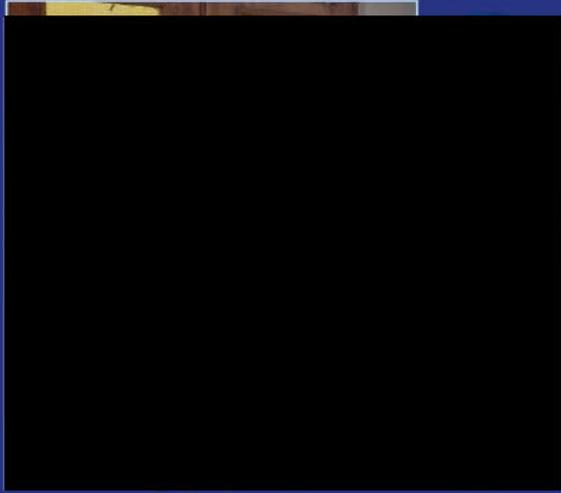
[#WorldBookNight](#) [#QuickReads](#)
[#ReadingAgency](#)

👍❤️👤 18

👍 Like 💬 Comment 📧 Send ➦ Share



👍 1



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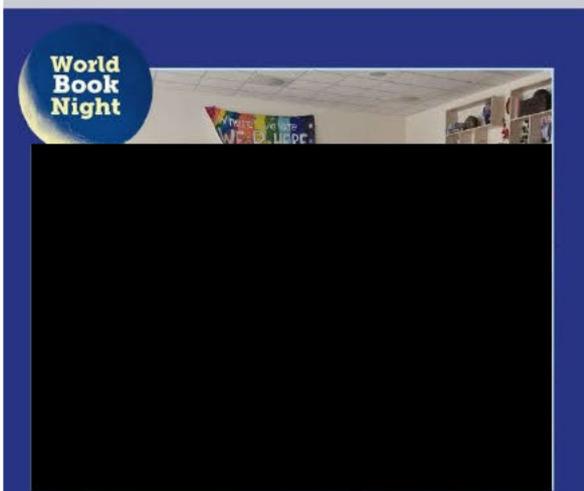
Like Comment Send Share



Volunteers with Conversation Cafe members at Library @ The Lightbox.

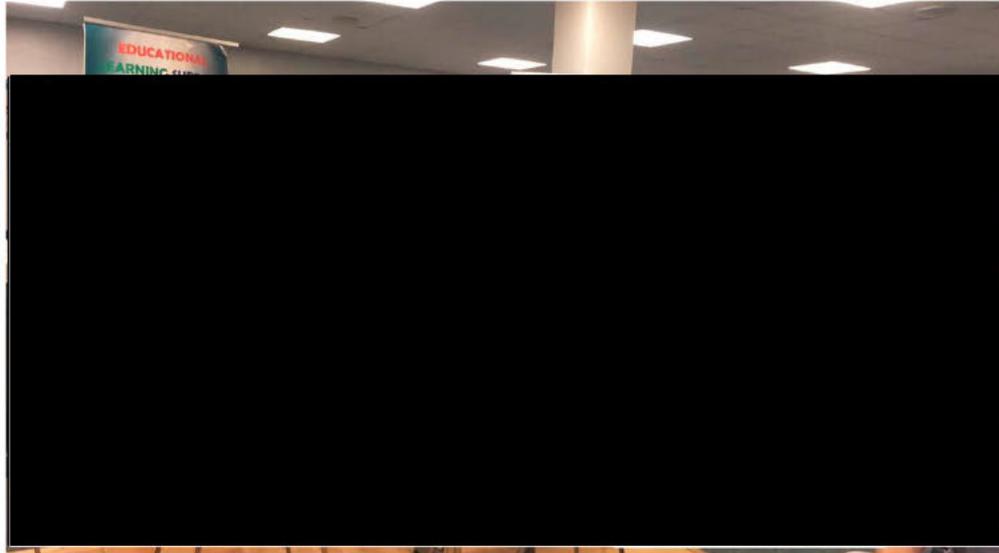
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Like Comment Send Share



The 'Feels Like Home' group at Barnsley Museums.

We value the opportunity to meet people seeking sanctuary at these drop-ins and the conversations that we have with them helps to inform our decision-making. We also value the opportunity during these drop-in sessions to meet and engage with partners. Through these drop-ins we were able to meet and partner with [REDACTED], our local Mears Welfare Officer, who took a large stack of our translated flyers in multiple languages to give to those she makes home visits to.



Library representatives speaking with visitors at the Multi-Agency Drop In on 15th June 2022



Barnsley Libraries stall at a Multi-Agency Drop In.

We are valued by those who coordinate the sessions, and we are included in their adverts about the drop in.

Migration Partnership Barnsley

Multi-Agency Drop-in for Barnsley's Migrant Communities

For information, support and advice on: migration, housing, work and benefits, health and wellbeing, education, volunteering, social activities, community groups, safety, children and youth services, Barnsley information, council services and more.

Agencies regularly represented include: Refugee Council, Barnsley Refugee Integration Service, Barnsley College, Health Integration Team, ELSH, Berneslai Homes, IDAS, Migrant Action, Live Well, Feels Like Home, South Yorkshire Police, Polska Biblioteka, Digital Champions, Barnsley CVS, Family Lives, and Barnsley Libraries.

Partnership with the Barnsley Refugee Council

We work closely with the Barnsley Refugee Advice Project which is part of Refugee Council to deliver library outreach to people seeking sanctuary and to raise awareness within the settled community of the need for a humane asylum process, for example through our 'Suitcase of Belonging' exhibition.

As well as the multi-agency drop ins, we have recently started attending Refugee Council offices when they have drop-in appointments where we speak to people seeking sanctuary all about libraries, what we offer in libraries, what they can do in libraries, how to join the library, signing them up with a library card and sharing translated materials. This is a new outreach delivery for us so we have so far attended their appointment drop-in twice but have already spoken to 15 people there and signed 7 people up with new library cards during our time there.

We have also delivered outreach to Refugee Council's Women's group. We have attended their session twice so far this year where we spoke to 42 people about the library service, our digital offer, groups and activities and signed people up for library cards.

We currently have plans for one of our project team members to attend the Refugee Council's Men's Group to do the same with them.

We extend our own invitation to the groups, clients and all who work at Barnsley's Refugee Council office, including an invitation to one of our invite only performances of 'Refuge Island' at Library @ the Lightbox for Refugee Week. We were delighted to welcome 12 members of the Refugee Council's Men's Group to one of the performances and this also helped to strengthen our relationship with this group to plan some outreach sessions with them.

██, former Barnsley Refugee Advice Project Managers, were instrumental in building our partnership with Refugee Council, with ██████████████████████ inviting us into their monthly steering group meetings and supporting us to engage with their clients.

██████████ was able to bring the Suitcase of Belonging exhibition to completion which gave us the opportunity to tour this round our libraries.

The new Barnsley Refugee Advice Project Manager ██████████ ██████████ has been a driving force behind promoting the library service with his clients and inviting us into their spaces and groups to deliver outreach sessions and we are tremendously thankful for his passion and commitment to further developing our partnership with them whilst also offering such a vital lifeline to so many people seeking sanctuary in Barnsley.

Partnership with Feels Like Home

We are proud to have partnered with Feels Like Home for a number of projects within libraries, including Stories From Around The World. We also regularly invite the group to events and activities we have on offer in the library and we have been delighted to host them during preparations for outdoor events, including as a welcoming space during Barnsley's Bright Nights festival.

Partnership with Safer Communities Team

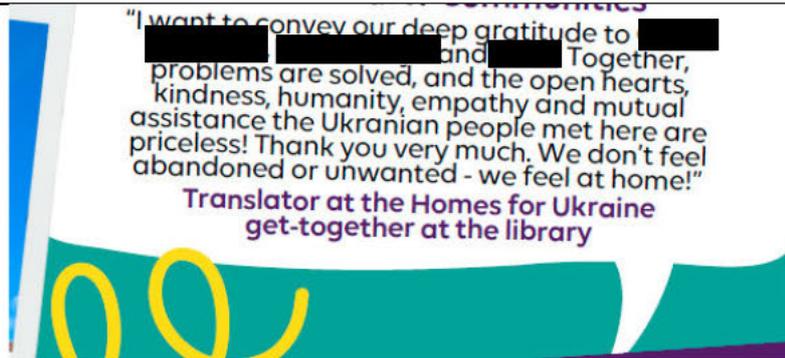
We work in partnership with the Safer Communities Team by welcoming them to utilise our library spaces for their meetings with people seeking sanctuary.

Feedback

██████████ Housing & Cohesion Officer

Hi ██████████ It was lovely to meet you too. Paul and I bring our new arrivals to the library, as we have to complete forms such as National Insurance number applications, open bank accounts and do Universal Credit applications when they arrive. We find it a good place to meet them as there is Wi-Fi for us to use, it gets them into town as we have to go into the bank to take their ID in to open an account and previously when I have brought two Ukrainians in, a member of staff on the ground floor offered to do their library cards for them while they were there. This worked well, so I think providing there are staff available we could introduce our new arrivals at that point and get them signed up for library cards etc.

Staff are always accommodating to us when we come in which is usually on a weekly basis sometimes several times a week, this is very much appreciated by myself and Paul.



The Strategic Migration Manager also included libraries in her most recent presentation 'The Power of Welcome', highlighting that we continue to be an important part of the whole:

Working Together

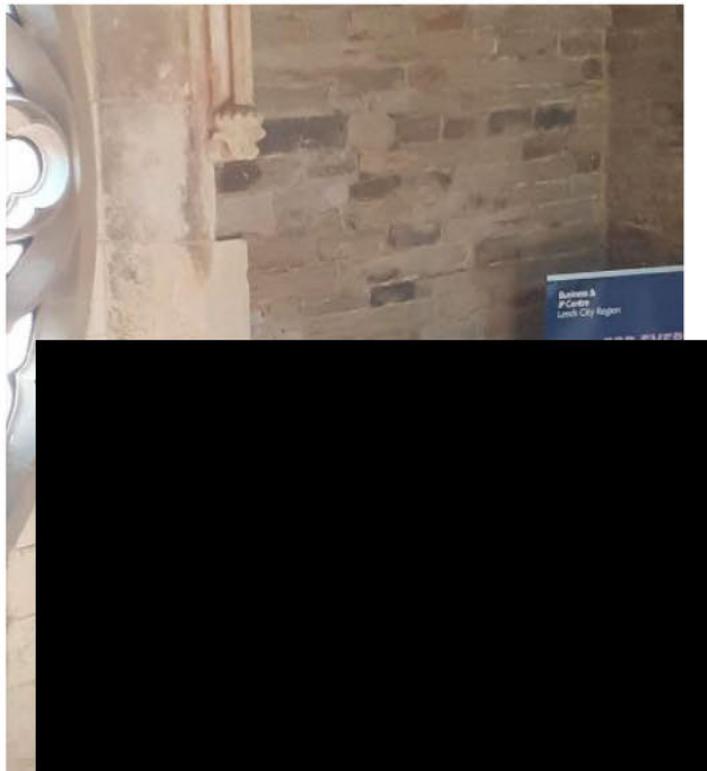
- Migration Yorkshire
- BMBC
- NHS
- Refugee Council
- Community & Voluntary Sector
- Libraries
- Mears
- Adult Learning
- ESOL providers

Making Members

- Raising Awareness
- Increasing representation from across the Borough.
- Link to Berneslai Homes.
- Link to Refugee Council.
- Tenants & Residents groups
- Advertise for members in libraries & community venues.

Linking with other libraries

Our Libraries of Sanctuary project team visited Halifax Library on 24 November 2023 to speak to the team there that led on the Libraries of Sanctuary project in Calderdale Libraries. We had a tour around Halifax Library and [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were able to share with us their experience of the process, the partners they engage with, some information about the settled communities and people seeking sanctuary in Calderdale as well as sharing with us the things they looked to develop because of the award. We are thankful that they were able to share their time and insight with us and we were invigorated by finding that some of the most important aspects of their work, including outreach and staff training, mirrored our own work.



A project team visit to Calderdale Libraries in Halifax, November 2023

Keeping up to date nationally

As the nominated lead for Sanctuary in Barnsley Libraries, I keep up to date with the Libraries of Sanctuary Stream nationally. I am on the mailing list for the Libraries and

	<p>Museums of Sanctuary Stream which allows me to have first sight of relevant information and updates as well as useful invites to events and conferences. I also keep up to date by attending webinars and engaging in conversations as part of these to understand other libraries' processes.</p>
<p>Any other additional supporting evidence</p>	

Please identify how people seeking sanctuary have been involved in helping you achieve these principles

People seeking sanctuary have been actively involved in helping Barnsley Libraries achieve these principles through various means:

By engaging people seeking sanctuary in our free, regular groups helps us to shape these groups based on their attendance, interests, needs and feedback. The weekly Conversation Café provides a safe and informal space for them to practise speaking English and interact with the settled community, facilitated with the contribution of volunteers. In these sessions, the feedback from people seeking sanctuary as well as their response to different activities, games or conversations helps staff and volunteers to shape the Conversation Café sessions to best support the people seeking sanctuary who attend.

By meeting and sharing with people seeking sanctuary during outreach activities, our service gains a better perspective of the languages that are spoken in Barnsley, including those which are don't feature in the top 9 which we have already had translated. This helps us to be more informed as to which languages to include in our next round of translations for our promotional flyers.

This also helps us to update our stock to reflect the languages spoken in the community and we strive to continue this work in the face of challenges that libraries nationally face in regard to obtaining stock in other languages.

Supporting people seeking sanctuary to courageously share their experiences and insights into their life, their interests and the challenges they face in exhibitions has given them the opportunity to amplify their voice and share what they are proud of and has given us the opportunity to raise awareness of

the local people seeking sanctuary with the wider settled community in Barnsley.

Taking a co-production approach in our projects has actively involved people seeking sanctuary in sharing what they would like to do in Barnsley and supporting them to achieve this. The 'Stories From Around The World' project involved people seeking sanctuary in its entirety from beginning to end and resulted in a project which both enriched our community and our library and offered skills, confidence, pride and a sense of belonging to the people seeking sanctuary who were involved in the project.

These contributions demonstrate the active role that people seeking sanctuary play in helping Barnsley Libraries achieve these principles, as well as helping to shape our service and fostering a welcoming environment and promoting understanding and integration within the community.

We recognise the value of involving people seeking sanctuary to help us improve the accessibility, inclusivity and quality of our service offer. The closing speech for our celebration event for Stories From Around The World helps convey our commitment to the people seeking sanctuary in Barnsley, who bring so much to our library and community:

"A huge thank you to all our Feels Like Home contributors, storytellers and singers alike, who have inspired us and courageously shared their favourite remembered stories and songs. Their place in Barnsley's local community, the cultural and linguistic value they contribute, their personal reflections, and mindset, make this book special. YOU make Barnsley feel like home."

How does your organisation intend to build on your achievements over the next 3 years in order that your award is renewed?

Our plans to build on the award involve regular actions throughout the year to develop our culture of welcome in our libraries. Our regular actions are to:

- review our service
- deliver relevant events and activities
- further engage with people seeking sanctuary
- develop opportunities for the settled community to meet and share time with people seeking sanctuary in a safe and welcoming space

We will take these actions by meeting as a project group twice a year to:

- review our offer to people seeking sanctuary, acknowledge any updates and changes to our services and discuss opportunities for development including but not limited to

- stock acquisition
- translation of flyers into further languages
- training and development
- plan and deliver events and activities for Refugee Week to celebrate the contribution of people seeking sanctuary
- plan and deliver an 'exchange visit' between a library group and a local group of people seeking sanctuary by working together with our partners
- plan and deliver regular outreach with our partners

In addition to this:

- we are currently planning a creative feedback session with people seeking sanctuary to try out a new craft or activity whilst having conversations around their experiences in our libraries. We hope to gain feedback from them to inform our decision-making processes and activities. We have identified people seeking sanctuary who would like to participate in this by liaising with our partners in the Safer Communities team within the council who come into our libraries with new arrivals and continue to support those who have arrived previously
- Barnsley Libraries became an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation in 2023, with funding secured to bring a whole range of exciting arts and cultural activities to Libraries across the borough. As part of this, we will be hosting creative experiences to mark Black History Month in October. We will do this by commissioning an artist/s to creatively respond to the theme of this year's Black History Month 'Reclaiming Narratives'
- We are working together with University of Sheffield to deliver a digital project with local dual-language families. 'Traditional Tales, Untraditionally Told' will work with a group of 5-10 multilingual families to share favourite traditional stories and have discussions around multilingual identities, followed by maker sessions where the families will create story props, backgrounds and characters to recreate their stories. They will also learn digital skills in Stop Motion/Octostudio to retell their traditional stories incorporating multilingual aspects and these stories will be shared publicly. This project will also give the opportunity for staff training to deliver similar sessions after the project has been completed.

Signed by the lead applicant:

