



Northampton Town of Sanctuary



NTS 2022 Annual report

2021 was another challenging year for NToS. Nevertheless, we have taken some significant strides.

West Northants Council and Northampton Town Council have both agreed to join the City of Sanctuary Local Authority network. Thank you to Pel and Crystal who spoke at a full council meeting.

West Northants has entered into negotiation with Northampton Safe Havens around Community Sponsorship for an Afghan family.

Delapre Abbey has offered support to us and has agreed in principle to becoming a Place of Sanctuary.

Northampton Town Football Club has offered support to us and has agreed in principle to becoming a Club of Sanctuary.

Spring Lane Primary and Northampton International Academy have agreed to look into using the curriculum materials produced by City of Sanctuary and becoming schools of sanctuary.

St Peters and St Pauls in the Park has agreed to become a Church of Sanctuary

In October we were able to set up our drop in for People with No Recourse to Public Funds and have added to that basic ESOL classes. The funding also allowed us to provide clothing vouchers to the families and this has probably been the most important thing we have done all year.

Refugee Week 2022.

West Northants Council, through the Diversity Forum, will host an event for refugee week at the Guildhall .

NTFC will contribute to Refugee Week.

Delapre Abbey will contribute to Refugee Week for the first time.

The UoN has agreed to continue to offer a series of seminars.

Student Placement

We have hosted an MA student on placement for the first time. Sarah agreed to update our policies, peer assess our roles as volunteers with L2L, support fundraising and support L2L.

Afghan ARAP scheme

NToS provided a training session for staff receiving and supporting the Afghan families.

L2L provided a play session at one of the hotels.

We supported St Peters and St Pauls in the Park to host a welcome event at the church and the park.

We supported St Peters and St Pauls in the Park to deliver a programme with the cricket club.



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We supported the youth to attend the Winter programme.

Events

Over the year we have responded to and kept our activities within Government guidelines and advice from the National Youth Club Association. This has meant we could not carry out our annual public engagements and fundraising face to face. L2L youth group met virtually, when necessary, in bubbles of 6, then bubbles of 15 and then opened its doors again.

In 2020/21 we were fortunate to be able to employ a part time youth worker. Tash helped us enormously keeping L2L going, virtually, face to face, with case work, and football and English classes. We were sad when the funding came to an end and we had to say goodbye to her as our youth worker.

L2L and STAR participated in fundraising and walked 5345km from Northampton to Baghdad to raise awareness

Refugee week 2021 was held virtually and was a triumph, with the University of Northampton and Star playing a leading role. The seminars and the virtual youth voice session were well received. The one face to face event was a football match with our youth properly kitted out in an L2L strip. This was organised by our volunteer Ciaran Dowling, with Tash, and was brilliant.

We have maintained a relationship with the youth who founded the club, now 23year olds, and have welcomed in new cohorts of separated youth. We have many young people from Sudan and some young people from the recently arrived Afghan ARAP groups.

L2L has had funding for day trips, a residential, a Summer holiday Programme and a Winter holiday programme, for day trips to Rutland Water, to London and the Science museum, for bowling. NTFC hosted our youth for a match and mentioned them in the programme. These L2L events have been life savers.

We seek to develop the youth as leaders and are pleased that with the funding made available for the Summer and the Winter programme, we were able to employ three of the youth.

Through these programmes we made new partnerships-with United Africa drummers, and with BST Academy of Martial Arts. 3 of our youth have been given free places to pursue their interest in boxing.

We thank the funders, Community Foundation, the High Sheriff, Power to Change, the St Giles Trust for all their support. We thank NAYC and Zoe Robinson for their support.



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Case Work

Anna B. and Kate S. spent two years supporting two of our youth, at risk of deportation, to get back into the system. They have been successful. After two years of misery, the youth can now access Home Office support for accommodation, finance and education. They have made fresh asylum claims and we are hopeful that this time they will be successful.

The Red Cross have been amazing allies of ours and supported our first family reunification. They applied for funding to open a permanent office in Northampton but unfortunately didn't get it.

They have offered to match fund us for a post-£20,000.

Future Developments

We have applied successfully for funding for 15 hour a week youth and community worker.

We have applied successfully for funding for IT equipment to support L2L and the drop in.

We are working with the UoN incubation hub on a project to set up a Refugee Centre. If successful the centre will host other groups, notably the Africa Centre.

Volunteers

The support of our volunteers has been tremendous. For their humour, commitment, sheer hard work, - we thank you all, Rabia, Tash, Aideen, Kate, Anna, Crystal, Pel, Lily, Ciaran.

Special mention must go to Jamal, who as a volunteer, oversees the running of L2L, facilitates the football, is the treasurer for our charity and the book keeper, keeping all the finances around our grants in order.

Accounts

Our accounts are audited by CVS and signed off by Trustees, Jamal Alwahabi, Gray Smith, Aideen Fogarty and Danielle Stone