



Swansea City of Sanctuary News



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Tan Dance Workshops (Page 5)



Centre stage at World Party Day Aug 2011



Coming together to celebrate

What is City of Sanctuary?

City of Sanctuary is a movement of local people and community groups who are working to make their cities into places of welcome and safety for people seeking refuge from war and persecution.

We want to celebrate the contribution of those who have come here for safety and spread a culture of hospitality and support throughout the whole of Swansea.

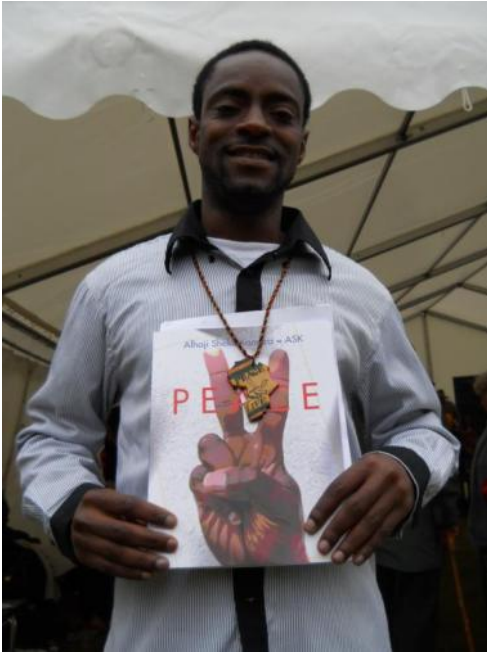
What's been happening at Swansea City of Sanctuary?

In the six months since we last went to print, we have seen lots of activity within Swansea City of Sanctuary. The refugee speakers team have continued to spread positive messages about asylum through talks with a range of organisations. One such talk was in November 2011, when 10 volunteers from City of Sanctuary spent a morning with medical students from the College of Medicine at Swansea University looking at a range of issues that health professionals may need to consider when working with people seeking sanctuary.

ShareTawe has continued its work on destitution hosting two faith leaders workshops and organising a meal share scheme as well as voluntary hosting.

In September 2011 the volunteers and staff on the People and Places Project supported independent evaluators to conduct a baseline study. Through interviews with key stakeholders, context analysis and focus groups and one to one interviews with over 80 refugees and asylum seekers in Swansea the study looked at the extent to which asylum seekers and refugees in Swansea currently feel welcome, are able to access services and currently feel integrated into the life and society of Swansea. The results of this study which will be available in Spring 2012 will inform the course of the People and Places Project over the following 30 months.





The People and Places project has an active body of over 20 volunteers, many of whom work from the DPIA office on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday in Grove House (next to the Refugee Council). For more information – see page eight.

Partnership and collaboration has been key to the work of the People and Places project since its inception in June 2011. The volunteering scheme which is now operational works closely with Welsh Refugee Council, Displaced People in Action, SCVS, Cyrenians Employment Support Agency and the ASART Team to recruit and place volunteers in a wide range of volunteer and work placements across sectors in Swansea.

The project manager is working closely with the Mental Health Development Officer at SCVS and Partnership and Planning Manager for the ABMU Health Board to ensure that local health services take into account the needs of refugees and asylum seekers in Swansea.

Access to justice continues to be an issue and the People and Places project continues to build relations with Ty Arian, Asylum

Justice, the Amani project at African Community Centre, Athena Counselling and Trauma Support as well as the Centre for Emotion and Law and examples of best practice from England.

A Mental Health Working Group was set up in September 2011 with representation from a range of organisations. The group organised a successful thematic workshop in November 2011 where specialists in the field of mental health and the refugee experience gave presentations to over 90 delegates. **Continued on Page 15**



News from National City of Sanctuary

Alan Thomas

City of Sanctuary started less than six years ago in Sheffield with the vision of a city which would be welcoming to all, especially those seeking sanctuary from violence and persecution in their own countries.

This simple idea has now spread so that there are over 20 city of sanctuary groups trying to promote this vision which form a network. Swansea was the second of five cities so far recognised as “Cities of Sanctuary” by the network, the others being Sheffield, Bradford, Bristol and Coventry.

Recently a new Trustee body has been elected for the national City of Sanctuary charity with members from 10 different cities. Swansea is particularly well represented since I have become the new national chair.

There are some exciting new ideas, and also some big issues confronting what has now become a much bigger movement than anyone imagined six years ago. One question is whether the original idea of recognising particular cities by applying set criteria still works. Is it essential to have formal Council support? What about a city where putting forward a resolution in Council would be politically divisive and possibly generate lots of bad publicity? Is the very idea of recognising some cities and not others damaging? Should recognition as a ‘City of Sanctuary’ be reviewed every two or three years? And with people seeking sanctuary still at risk of deportation without adequate legal representation, and others forced into destitution, how can any city be declared a ‘City of

Sanctuary’?

But on the whole City of Sanctuary is strengthening. The most recent groups are in Edinburgh and Belfast, and there is interest in the concept from other European countries. The original vision is being applied more broadly than just to cities. For example, Leeds, Coventry and elsewhere are developing the idea of ‘Schools of Sanctuary’. A number of health activists are working on bringing a welcome for women



seeking sanctuary into midwifery services (and broadening this e.g. getting local taxi firms to pledge a free ride for destitute asylum seeking women in labour). There is talk of Wales (and Scotland) as a Nation of Sanctuary. We are thinking about how to get pledges of support from regional or national companies which operate in several cities as well as from national charities, faith groups, etc. There are ideas for celebrating the contributions of those seeking sanctuary at national level.

The next network meetings will be regional, in March or April, with a national meeting in June or July. Swansea is asked what we hope to gain from having a trustee on the national body, and also what we think about the process and criteria for recognition and the importance of ‘trans-local’ activities as opposed to concentrating on supporting the local groups. If you have any thoughts on these matters, please get in touch with me at AlanTSwansea@gmail.com.

Our Supporting Organisations:

TAN Dance - Home is where the heart is

"Home is Where the Heart Is" was an exciting, intergenerational community dance project run by Tan Dance, a supporting member of Swansea City of Sanctuary, that took place at Swansea Metropolitan University in July 2011. People of all ages and dance abilities from Swansea and Neath Port Talbot took part, including a number of people seeking sanctuary. The youngest member was four years old and the oldest was sixty something! Everybody involved worked very hard each day for a whole week with choreographer Cecilia Macfarlane to create a moving piece of dance which was performed at the Metropolitan's Townhill Theatre and Neath College's new arts centre's theatre.

Cecilia believes: "Everyone can dance. A blink of an eye, a swing of an arm, a shrug of a shoulder or a kicking leg, any age, anybody, can dance."

Everyone's contribution was valued with songs, music, drawings and poetry included, all held together with a beautiful story written and told by Jane, one of the participants.

Carol Brown, TAN Dance's Artistic Director



and CEO, was responsible for creating the opportunity with funding from the Arts Council of Wales and through a partnership with Swansea Metropolitan University. A third of the participants were new to Swansea and were invited to take part as TAN Dance is one of five European partners who are involved in the Ariadne Project. The Ariadne Project aims to show that being involved in the arts can help towards settling into a new environment. Dance is a universal language and a powerful form of expression for all. Some participants had danced before but for many it was the first time that they had worked in this way.

"It was an unforgettable experience for me," said Aallya.

"I met some amazing people along my journey but most of all I discovered a new part of me, a person who can express himself through dance. As a result I have decided to follow up my new interest in dance and start having lessons in September," said Luke.

The Vice Chancellor of the Metropolitan thoroughly enjoyed the performance saying, "I truly believe that the arts do break down barriers and that through the arts it is possible for people from many different backgrounds to work together to achieve positive outcomes."

Carolyn Davies and Lynne Bebb are working with TAN Dance on the Ariadne Project.



ariadne4art@gmail.com
www.ariadne4art.eu

ariadne
project



Key Issues in Refugee and Asylum Seekers Mental Health: A Thematic Workshop

Llys Glas - November 24th 2011

Thursday 24th November 2011 saw the first of the People and Places project's thematic workshops on the mental health needs of people seeking sanctuary.

It was held at Llys Glas, and was attended by over 90 delegates including Community Mental Health Teams, Social services, UK Border Agency, Voluntary Sector, Health professionals and Housing Teams.

The event was opened by Dr. Ed Roberts, Vice-Chair of the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg Health Board, who was then followed by a series of presenters; Ginny Scarlett from MIND Cymru, who discussed the findings of MIND's report "A Civilised Society," about mental health provision for asylum seekers and refugees in England and Wales; Dr. Mike Davies, a consultant family psychotherapist, who talked about the effect of the refugee experience on the mental health of children; and Jaana Laidlaw, from Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers, who shared her ideas about best practice in a therapeutic service, including ideas on how to work effectively and appropriately with interpreters. These talks were interspersed with showings of digital stories created by from Asylum Voices and opportunities for networking.



The event was chaired by City of Sanctuary volunteer and Refugee Advocacy Forum member Mabinty Carew and was closed by Sharon Miller, Planning and Partnerships Manager for ABMU health board, who outlined the commitment of the locality to understanding the needs of people seeking sanctuary and also Mike Lewis, Chief Executive of Welsh Refugee Council, who challenged the attendees to provide accessible and appropriate services to people seeking sanctuary in Swansea.

Following on from the workshop, an information network "e-bulletin" has been established to keep professionals up to date with happenings in the world of refugee mental health. From evaluations it has also been found that many of the attendees would like training in issues surrounding the asylum system.



If you would like more information about joining the City of Sanctuary Mental Health Working Group or receiving the E-Bulletin please get in touch with People and Places Project Manager, Emily Robertson, via e.robertson@swansea.ac.uk

Meeting Points: Cefn Hengoed School

On 27th September 2011, some members of the refugee awareness speakers team spent the day educating students at Cefn Hengoed Comprehensive School in Bonymaen about issues facing people seeking sanctuary in Swansea. They delivered sessions to five Year 7 classes, reaching about 130 students. Mabinty Carew opened up each session with an engaging folk tale from Sierra Leone, her country of

students also viewed a mini-exhibit and answered quiz questions which included the following subjects: "What provides protection for refugees?", "Definitions: Refugee and asylum seeker", "Where in the world are refugees?", "Refugee contributions to the UK", "What is Swansea City of Sanctuary?" And in each session the speakers facilitated group discussions on one of two topics, either "What is sanctuary

The refugee speakers team can speak to schools, groups, clubs, churches and any other interested organisations to educate and inform people about the issues facing people seeking sanctuary.

The project is an integral part of City of Sanctuary and is managed by *Displaced People in Action* and aims to assist more asylum seekers and refugees to find ways of telling and contextualising personal stories in order to provide background information on development issues in particular origin countries and explain the reasons people flee.

The speakers team can be reached through Ginger Wiegand: gingerdpiawales@yahoo.co.uk.

birth, and then talked about what it was like to move to Swansea and adapt to a new comprehensive school here. Aallya Khalil showed the students a clip of an Iraqi-Australian contestant on Australian X-factor who found sanctuary in Australia after the first Iraq war. She went on to explain the quality of Iraqi life during the sanctions and outlined the importance for her of finding a welcome in Swansea. With the two higher sets, she discussed how sectarian violence has affected life in some regions of Iraq. Stu-

and where do you find it?" or "Time to flee – What do you take with you?" To close the day, Wahida Khorsand translated an Afghani joke about Mullah Nasruddin, who character who recurs in Afghani folklore. One class asked to hear the joke in her mother tongue Dari as well. Two of the speakers mentioned above live in this school's neighbourhood and one reported back that when the schoolchildren see her recently, they greet her and call her "Miss."

Swansea City of Sanctuary Volunteer Scheme

The Swansea City of Sanctuary volunteer scheme is up and running and you can be a part of it too! All of us involved with City of Sanctuary volunteer in one way or another and you can join us to improve your skills, gain experience with a particular activity and to meet new people.

City of Sanctuary is encouraging asylum seekers and refugees and members of the local community to volunteer together to make Swansea a real place of welcome.



There are many different opportunities to make a difference in Swansea, and it doesn't matter if you haven't had much experience, or you are completely new to it – the City of Sanctuary project workers, Emily and Richard, will give you support, guidance and training. If your English isn't great, it doesn't matter – it's the perfect place to practice your English and the more languages we have, the better!

We are flexible and will create an opportunity with you so that you develop the skills and gain the experience that you need to progress to do what you want to do.

- We need help with:
- Event management;
 - office administration;
 - communications and marketing;
 - grant applications;
 - facilitating and chairing meetings;
 - bookkeeping;
 - befriending and mentoring;
 - fundraising;
 - childcare;
 - gardening and horticulture;
 - teaching English;
 - and first aid and catering.

All expenses incurred while volunteering are reimbursed because volunteering should cost you nothing, except your time!

Volunteering takes places around the city, although most work is done at Grove House in the City Centre, we're on the same floor as Welsh Refugee Council and Swansea Bay Racial Equality Council.

If you are interested in volunteering with City of Sanctuary and you would like to discuss what we can do together, e-mail: richard.lewis@swansea.ac.uk.

Legal Advice

Asylum Justice is a charity that gives free legal advice to asylum seekers if they do not have legal representation. It runs drop-in advice sessions in Cardiff, Newport and Swansea. Asylum Justice is completely independent, funded entirely by donations and run entirely by volunteers. In Swansea, Asylum Justice meets at the Quaker Meeting House at the bottom of Page Street, opposite the YMCA, on Wednesdays from 3.00 -5pm and Saturdays from 10.00-11.30 am.

Asylum Justice is a registered charity (Reg No 1112026) and an exempt body (No 20080025) approved by the OISC (Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner)



Postal address: Asylum Justice c/o YMCA
1 the Kingsway Swansea SA1 5JQ.



The Refugee House / Container

Oasis Cardiff, in partnership with the Museum of Welsh Life, the National Waterfront Museum and the Arts Council of Wales are embarking on a community arts project across South Wales

with the aim of providing a platform for the refugee and asylum seeking community to dispel many of the myths and stereotypes surrounding the issue of migration and record and celebrate the impact of their migration on Welsh life. The project culminates in June 2012 with the installation of a refugee house in the grounds of the Museum of Welsh Life, St Fagans, and a shipping container at the National Waterfront Museum, Swansea. These interactive installations will act as a hub for exhibitions and performances created by the refugee and asylum-seeking community using a variety of media such as drama, digital media and film, music, dance and fine art and facilitated by artists and workshop leaders. If you are interested in participating further and knowing more about the project, please contact Dave Evans at the following email: daijevans@btopenworld.com and look out for our upcoming Facebook page "The Refugee House/Container Project" and let us know what you think about the project.

Athena Counselling Services



ATHENA

Counselling Services

traumatic experiences and providing therapeutic reports where requested. We look forward to continuing this work over the next year. Further work is planned and the New

Athena Counselling Services is a not-for-profit organisation offering counselling and trauma therapy to people living in Swansea and surrounding areas. Last year, under our old name, we took part in the very successful Amani Project providing therapeutic services to refugees and asylum seekers in conjunction with the African Community Centre, Exemplary Training and Comic Relief. We ran individual and group therapy sessions with women from eight different nations and the women reported a reduction in levels of depression, anxiety and PTSD symptoms, alongside high increases in wellbeing scores. Our clients told us that they felt less alienation and isolation than before therapy and we are shortly to undertake further research on the impact of belonging on trauma resilience and recovery.

In November, we legally changed our name from City Counselling Services Ltd to Athena Counselling Services Ltd and we are in no way affiliated with any other company operating under our old name.

Our specialised service, Athena Trauma Support, continues to offer specific help to refugees and asylum seekers. We have worked alongside immigration solicitors and other charitable organisations to support our clients through the asylum seeking process, helping them work through their

Year brings fundraising projects and funding bids in the hope that we can expand our work and help even more refugees and asylum seekers.

Our counsellors are all trained from HE Diploma level upwards, are all members of the British Association for Counselling & Psychotherapy, hold Professional Indemnity Insurance, are CRB checked and have completed further training in Trauma Psychology and Multicultural Counselling.

If you would like to make a referral, find out more about our services, or help with fundraising, please contact Jackie Chivers on 01792 828580 or 07722 288244 or visit our website www.athenatraumasupport.com for more information.



Good Experiences at Gower College Swansea

Reflections from a volunteer

Living in Swansea has been a great experience for me, and having given out some of my time in volunteering has made the experience even greater.

I have had a chance to attend a few of the Swansea College diversity days and it has been a very exciting experience to meet a very special friendly group of students and staff.

The welcome was great and Jane from the equality department made sure everything went to plan. During the visits, I have been able to demonstrate how to make some African snacks (mandazi and samosa) that are very popular, especially with East Africans. These snacks are commonly eaten with a cup of spicy tea (chai), a common beverage in the region. The college has a project in Kenya and these kind of diversity events also have given many the opportunity to learn about such good willed projects.



Gower College Swansea
Coleg Gŵyr Abertawe

The first diversity day that I attended, I prepared in advance a slide show presentation about different aspects of life in Kenya. These included food, dress, customs, tribes and wildlife. The students were very amazed about how much information we could learn within a short time especially when hearing it from the "horse's mouth." Their enthusiastic questions and previous holiday experiences were adorable and I went home thinking how important it is to learn about our diverse cultures in the community.

On another diversity day, the whole college was dressed in blue and were willing to donate to help in the elimination of child slavery in Haiti. I participated in cooking more snacks in the college kitchens, with the help of the hospitality class, which were sold around the college to try to raise some money for Haiti. The hardworking hospitality class, dressed like professional chefs, were very eager to learn how to make the African snack that had become popular by now and went selling through the college.

All of these experiences with the college have helped raise my confidence that, I too, despite being from a minority community, can contribute and use my skills to be useful and to help others and bring about a harmonious community rich in diversity.

SHARE Tawe

Supporting Homeless Asylum Seekers and Refugees in Swansea

Do you have a spare room?

SHARE Tawe is a voluntary hosting project set up by Swansea City of Sanctuary to support homeless asylum seekers and refugees. Our aim is to offer hospitality, in the form of accommodation, meals, welcome and solidarity, to destitute asylum seekers in Swansea.

Many people are made destitute at some time or another during their attempt to claim asylum. This means they have no money, no food and nowhere to stay. We estimate that up to around 100 people are in this position in Swansea.

Some volunteers provide accommodation for anything from a night to a few weeks or longer, some may invite an asylum seeker to their home for meals, while others help out financially.

To find out more please visit www.sharetawe.org.uk or contact info@sharetawe.org.uk

We are happy to come and give a talk or show a short film if you want to know more.



We are urgently seeking volunteer hosts. Can you help?

Can you:

- Offer a temporary room in your home to a destitute asylum seeker?
- Invite someone to dinner?
- Help raise awareness?
- Make a donation?



Photo by Robat Powell

Bright Ideas from Budding Artists

A number of young refugees have recently made a very positive contribution to an art project. They were included in a group of gifted and able young people from various classes at Gors Community School who were chosen to work with artist Mary Hayman. The aim was to paint and draw ideas for a new sign to help brighten up the nearby allotments. The children worked well together to provide the inspiration for Mary and fellow artist Karen Hope to paint the actual full scale sign. This will be installed at the entrance to Heol-y-Gors allotments in early 2012.



Share Tawe: SHARE a meal

SHARE a Meal is a new scheme run by SHARE Tawe and supported by the Community Cohesion Fund, local people in Swansea are encouraged to invite people seeking sanctuary to eat with them in their own homes. The aim is for people to meet and get to know each other and help Swansea develop as a friendly and supportive community.

In November, Capel-y-Nant church in Clydach welcomed people seeking sanctuary to "SHARE a Meal" at their church hall. The evening was great fun and very much enjoyed by all involved.

If you would like to take part in SHARE a Meal as a household or as a group please get in touch: info@sharetawe.org.uk

Transformation at the Vetch

The Vetch is an iconic part of Swansea's past, with its transformation into an area where food can be grown, it has enabled local Swansea residents to utilise a space with a historic legacy which may otherwise be wasted.

One of these local residents is Ali Yassin. Ali is a City of Sanctuary volunteer originally from Palestine. As an asylum seeker without the right to work Ali has got busy with being the project leader for several of the vegetable patches down at Vetch Veg.

Ali maintains the vegetable patches by visiting the site regularly and working with other residents to think about seasonal growing and supporting the communal projects on site.

Ali also organises other volunteers and decides on what to grow and where. When chatting to other residents down at the Vetch Ali said, "I like to come here to help out, enjoy the open space and grow flowers and vegetables that remind me of home."

If you would like to get involved with the Vetch Veg patch you can make contact with Ali by calling 01792 513186 or registering as a City of Sanctuary volunteer through

richard.lewis@swansea.ac.uk

Vetch Veg is coordinated by artist Owen Griffiths and is in collaboration with Adain Avion. For more information see <http://vetchveg.tumblr.com/>



Other highlights from the past 6 months include interactive stalls and exhibitions at city wide events such as World Party Day and World Mental Health Day in the Grand Theatre, pledges of support from Swansea University departments, Gower College, City Tax Tax Company among others and building a Schools of Sanctuary program which Cefn Hengoed and Pentrehafof Schools have already started to work on.

In the first half of 2012 we are looking forward to welcoming a new Management Committee to guide and motivate Swansea to become a city which truly welcomes people fleeing violence and persecution. In Spring/Summer 2012 an exhibition curated by Swansea City of Sanctuary will be put on at Swansea Museum, alongside Refugee

Week 2012 we hope to raise the positive public recognition of the contribution refugees and asylum seekers make to city life.

This spring will also see a second thematic workshop, perhaps concentrating on themes around No Recourse to Public Funds as well as a large employers network meeting in April. This coincides with work being done across the UK to make employers aware of the refugee skill pool and tackle barriers to employment for refugees.

We hope that 2012 will bring us lots more pledges of support and practical actions from Swansea based organisations and businesses in order that the Swansea City of Sanctuary movement continues to grow and make a real difference to the lives of people seeking sanctuary in Swansea.

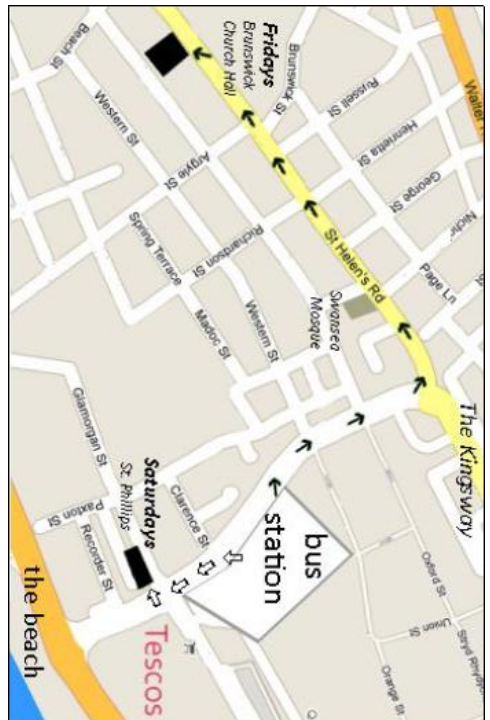
Swansea Bay Asylum Seekers Support Group invite you to make new friends at our community drop-in centres.

Everyone is welcome!

Fridays - 5pm - 7pm (17h - 19h): in the *Brunswick Methodist Church Hall* (on St Helen's Road, next door to Exotica Supermarket) SA1 4BE



Saturdays - 2pm - 5pm (14h - 17h): in *St Phillips Community Centre* (opposite Tesco Marina) SA1 3RY



Volunteering with LEANA

Hannah Machora

For six months, I was one of the beneficiaries of the Future Jobs Fund project through Swansea Job Centre. While enjoying my work at the African Community Centre, I also had a chance to network quite extensively and my supervisor

was very much willing to help me get as much contact as possible so that I could use this time to make my skills known in the area of nutrition and dietetics. One of the important contacts she gave was that of

Swansea Council for Voluntary Service's local education advisor on nutrition and activity (SCVS-LEANA project). I met the coordinator and I registered as a volunteer. This was the first project in nutrition that I had been involved with in the recent past. The project is aimed at reaching as many people in the Swansea area with the message to make small changes in their lifestyle around food and activity so as to maximise their health and well-being. This was the best thing that was happening to me because I not only enjoy talking to people about preparing a healthy plate of food but I also enjoy being a living example, "practising what I preach" with my family. I enjoyed every bit and through the support I got from the project coordinators, I was able to hold a group discussion with mostly female refugees and asylum seekers. An article about what we did that day appeared on the Sector3 winter 2010 SCVS magazine for Swansea.

Among other activities we were able to do as volunteers during 2011 were holding practical group sessions where we cooked healthy foods

and showed families how to prepare healthy cheap meals. Various physical activities were also part of the group sessions. These would not have been possible were it not for the extensive training we regularly received and volunteer support meetings, where we shared and heard volunteers relate their successful stories at the SCVS offices. Further training by NHS



community nutritionists was very useful in terms of refreshing my knowledge of nutrition and diet which enabled me to confidently deliver the message to the community. Children (0-12 yrs) were also part of the project, helping them to participate in food preparation at secure environments thus boosting their ability

to make healthy choices at home and at school. The project was designed to be a fun activity, making the ideas about healthy choices come from the desire to feel and look healthy. Physical activities are equally important and we encouraged activities such as dancing, walking, jumping around and many more fun children's games.

The outcome has been that all the families that were involved learnt valuable lessons that helped them make small changes, for example, baking foods instead of deep frying, choosing fruit for snacks instead of chocolate, including all types of food and considering the "eat well plate" as a guide as to how much of each food group is required, reading labels and going for food which is low in saturated fat and low in sugar, choosing wholemeal instead of refined foods.. All these small changes, when they are persistent, contribute greatly to general health and well-being in individuals over a period of time.

No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) Network News

Some people who are subject to immigration control and do not have the right to work are deemed to have 'No Recourse to Public Funds' (NRPF), welfare benefits, public housing or UK Border Agency support. The NRPF policy affects a wide range of people who are subject to immigration control, including refused asylum seekers, visa overstayers, people subject to domestic violence, post-18 former unaccompanied asylum seeking children, people in the UK on spousal visas and some EEA migrants.

Local Authorities have a duty to provide advice to people with NRPF and to assist them in finding a solution. People with NRPF may in some circumstances be entitled to care services including accommodation and financial support. Local Authorities should undertake an eligibility test and an assessment of need in assessing whether they have a duty to support someone with NRPF.

The Wales NRPF network is seeking membership from Local Authorities and other statutory and voluntary agencies from across Wales. If you would like to join the network, please contact selina.moyo@wsmp.org.uk
The WSMP chair also attends the NRPF steering group.



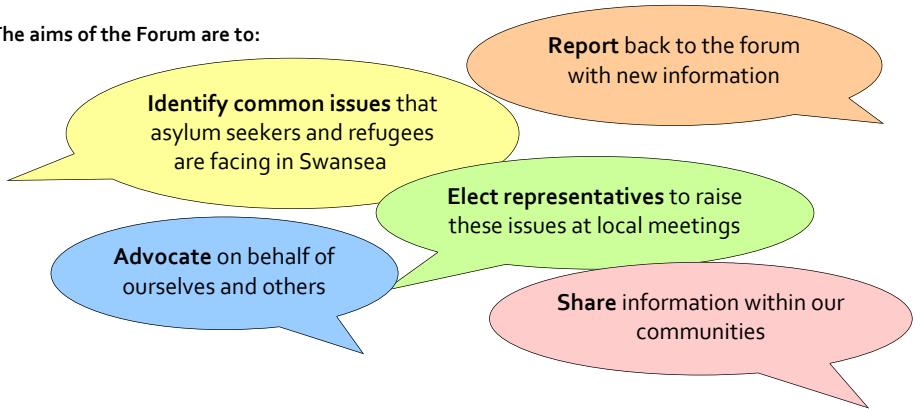
Wales NRPF Network aims and objectives:

- influence policy on NRPF at Wales and UK levels
- consider the impact of NRPF cases in Wales
- link with and inform regional strategies and initiatives particularly relating to NRPF issues
- monitor the impact of migration on No Recourse to Public Funds issues
- monitor and report progress in dealing with NRPF issues across Wales, share good practice
- create a forum to share up to date information on NRPF
- identify and source relevant training around NRPF issues
- identify and seek to address gaps in resources, service provision and delivery to asylum seekers, unsuccessful asylum seekers, refugees and migrants

Swansea Refugee and Asylum Seekers Advocacy Forum

The Forum was setup in 2010 with support from DPIA. It is a place for refugees and asylum seekers to meet monthly and talk about common issues we face in Swansea. It is a place where we can find solutions together and realise we are not alone.

The aims of the Forum are to:



The Forum is about advocating for equal rights, good treatment and fair access to services for refugees, asylum seekers and minority groups. Please contact Brian Marijeni on 07861772516 for more information.

African Community Centre

2 Humphrey Street, Swansea SA1 6BG
01792 470298

BAWSO - a specialist service for BME women and children made homeless due to domestic violence.

1st Floor, 63 Mansel Street, Swansea, SA1 5TN 01792 642003
www.bawso.org.uk
swansea@bawso.org.uk

Citizens Advice Swansea

Free welfare rights, other advice and assistance.

Llys Glas, Pleasant St., Swansea 0844 477 2020
www.swansea.acab.org.uk
enquiries@swansea.acab.org.uk

Community Legal Services

Information on local legal and advice ser-

vices

0845 3454345 www.clsdirect.org.uk

Cyrenians Cymru

Youth and homelessness support group
124 Walter Road, Swansea 01792 467926
www.cyrenians.co.uk
cyrenians@cyrenians.co.uk

DPIA (Displaced People in Action)

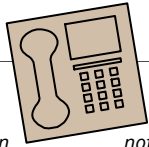
'The relief of those seeking asylum and those granted refugee status who are in conditions of need, hardship and distress'.

The Coal Exchange, Mt Stuart Square, Cardiff CF10 5EB 029 2048 2478

Equality & Human Rights Commission

3rd Floor, 2 Callaghan Square, Cardiff CF10 5BT
02920 447710 www.equalityhumanrights.com

Useful Numbers



POLICE

NON EMERGENCY 101 or 01792 456999 (for non urgent matters when in fear or danger)

EMERGENCY 999
(When there is violence or fear of violence)

HATE CRIME – Andrea Griffiths

101 or 01792456999 EX 52700 or 07584770944 (for help and advice not to report incidents)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – Julie Upcott 01639 889198 or 07779517935.
(for help and advice not to report incidents)

HOSPITALS

Singleton 01792 205666
Morrison 01792 702222

EYST - supports ethnic minority young people aged 11-25, 11 St. Helen's Rd., Swansea

01792 466980 - www.eyst.org

Info-Nation - Information, support and advice for young people aged 11-25, 47 The Kingsway, Swansea
01792 484010
info-nation@swansea-edunet.gov.uk

MEWN - Minority Ethnic Women's Network
24 Mansel Street, Swansea
01792 467222

www.mewnswansea.org.uk
mewn@mewnswansea.org.uk

Samaritans - Confidential, emotional support
17 St Johns Road, Swansea
01792 655999
(National helpline) 08457 909090
www.samaritans.org.uk Jo@samaritans.org

SBASSG drop-in - meets on Friday evenings and Saturday afternoons - see advert on page 15.
www.swanseaabassgroup.org

Swansea City and County Council

Main switchboard 01792 636 000
Library (central) 01792 516750

Swansea Bay Racial Equality Council

Grove House, Grove Place, Swansea
01792 457035
www.sbrec.org.uk sb.rec@virgin.net

Gower College Swansea

Kingsway 01792 470611
Tycoch 01792 284000

SCVS Swansea Council for Voluntary Services

7 Walter Road, Swansea
01792 544000 www.scvs.org.uk

Victim Support

Local support for victims of crime
81 Mansel Street, Swansea
01792 543653

Welsh Refugee Council

Third Floor, Grove House, Grove Place,
Swansea SA1 5DF
01792 630180 info@welshrefugeecouncil.org

Women's Aid Swansea

For women who are experiencing domestic violence and abuse
01792 644683 www.welshwomensaid.org
web@womensaid.org.uk

City of Sanctuary People and Places Project

The People and Places Project operates from the 3rd floor on Grove House (next to WRC and SBREC) on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10am-2pm and from the Discovery Offices, Fulton House at Swansea University from 3-6pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and 10am-6pm on Thursdays and Fridays.

Swansea City of Sanctuary

swansea@cityofsanctuary.org

www.cityofsanctuary.org/swansea

Swansea City of Sanctuary, Discovery Offices, Fulton House, Swansea University, SA2 8PP

Swansea City of Sanctuary supporting organisations are: African Community Centre, African Friendship Association, Amnesty International (Swansea), Asia Market (Jamil Ali) St Helen's road, Asylum Justice, Baha'i of Swansea, Bikeability Wales, Bike Hub, BP, British Red Cross, Buondi Café, Caer las, Cancer Research UK, Capel y Nant, CEMVO Wales, Centre for Migration Policy Research, Circus Eruption, City and County of Swansea, City Counselling Services, City Temple, Clydach Methodist Church, College of Medicine Swansea University, Communication Workers Union Welsh Valleys, Communities First Bonymaen, Communities First Clase and Caemawr, Communities First Morriston, Congo Support Project in Wales, Cornerstone Church, Cyrenians Cymru, Cytûn (Churches Together in Wales), Cytun Sketty, Clydach Area, Department of Continuing and Adult Education, DESI Foods St Helen's road, Dharmavajra Kadampa Buddhist Centre, Discovery, Arts, Ethnic Minority Congregations Exemplary Training, Exotica St Helen's Cymru, Gower College Swansea, Regeneration Partnership, Gwalia, Youth Action Group, Humbrella Com-Helen's road, Jimmy Juggle, Lesbian Church, Local Aid, Lush Swansea, Mission Gallery, MOne Green Project, Feminist Network, OnePeople Product and Music shop, Oxfam Cymru, Oxfam Palestinian Society of Wales, Parkfod Comprehensive School, Plaid Wales, Sandfields Community Association, Seventh Day Adventist Church, Shelter Cymru, Sketty Methodist Church, Sketty Parish Parochial Church Council, Small World Theatre, Snap Cymru, South Wales Evening Post, South Wales Police (Community Engagement Team), SOVA (Mentoring Service), St. Helen's Primary School, Swansea Bay Asylum Seekers and Refugees Support Group, Swansea Bay Racial Equality Council, Swansea Citizens Advice Bureau, Swansea Community Farm, Swansea Council of Voluntary Service, Swansea County Labour Party, Swansea Digital Storytelling, Swansea Drugs Project, Swansea Feminist Network, Swansea Green Party, Swansea Interfaith, Swansea Metropolitan University, Swansea Mind, Swansea Mosque & Islamic Community Centre, Swansea Palestine Community Link, Swansea Quakers, Swansea UAF, Swansea University Mosque, Swansea University Student Services, Swansea Women's Asylum Support Group, Swansea Women's Centre, Swansea YMCA, SWP Swansea Campaign against Cuts, Sylfaen Cynefin, TAN Dance, The Doves Youth Group Swansea, The Environment Centre, The Josef Herman Art Foundation Cymru, The Union of Congolese People, Theatr Fforum Cymru, Transition Swansea, Undercurrents, Unison, UNITE Swansea Branch, Volcano Theatre Company, Vetch Veg Project, Wales Africa Community Links, Wales Strategic Migration Partnership, Waterfront Church, Welsh Refugee Council, Wesley Club Sketty Methodist Church, Wise Up Home Education Group, Workers Educational Association



Displaced People in Action, Dragon Wales, Ethnic Youth Support Team, road, First Cymru, Forest School, Gofal Green Art Studio, GSP Community Hafan Books, Hafan Cymru, Hafod munity Singing Group, Jasmin St and Gay Christian Movement, Linden Minority Ethnic Women's Network, National Waterfront Museum, Oldertions, Oxfam Castle Street Film, Book Union St Shop, Oyster Education, lands Church, Peace Mala, Pentreha-Cymru, Red Café, Refugee Voice

We need letters, reports, stories, recipes, photos or other ideas for our next issue.
If you have time to help with the next newsletter please get in touch: richard.lewis@swansea.ac.uk



ARIENNIR GAN Y LOTERI
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Created by
Swansea City of Sanctuary,
January 2012.

Thank you to all contributors.

