

The Edith M Ellis 1985 Charitable Trust

City of Sanctuary Sheffield

#CTZC498GQX submitted on 13 January 2022

1.1 Please summarise what you are seeking from us

We are looking for support to develop knowledge, ideas and design proposals to counter the hostility of our current immigration system. Specifically, we want to address the intersecting issues compounded by 'institutional accommodation' and build resources for people across the country to prepare for the government's planned expansion of accommodation centres. Funding will enable us to extend our work of building sanctuary for forced migrants through a process of research-led innovative architectural design.

1.2 Tell us more about your project, the impact it will have on those it aims to help, and why you consider the proposed approach to be innovative

The proposed project is to create a body of initial research exposing the difficulties asylum seekers experience in 'institutional accommodation', leading to a series of new proposals for social and structural innovations in practice.

Issues faced

There are currently 28,000 asylum seekers in institutional accommodation across the country that is deemed to be "unsuitable for people seeking refugee protection who desperately need safety, privacy and stability" (In a place like prison': Voices from institutional asylum accommodation; Asylum Matters, Dec 2021). These sites prevent sustainable development; increasing inequality and preventing forced migrants from rebuilding their lives in local communities. There are 27 such sites in Yorkshire and Humber, six of which have opened since Christmas 2021. As the government continues to expand its use of institutional accommodation we must respond with meaningful and visible work.

Ideas for Change

Architecture is an embodiment of the values within society. It not only contains ideas but also acts to propagate them. City of Sanctuary Sheffield (CoSS) have been exploring ideas with award-winning architectural designers to reflect on how we might imagine and practically create the new (infra)structures and systems needed. These designers have experience building user-led social centres centred on marginalised communities (Foodhall Sheffield), they have established national networks for social change (National Food Service) and establishing a range of physical and organisational structures to support children's rights (Baltic Street Adventure Playground), neighbourhood employment (Granby Workshop) and spatial justice (House of Annetta). This has already led to a widely acclaimed redesign of our core space, The Sanctuary, and continues with this project.

The Plan

The project would initially enable five site visits to research people's lived experiences of institutional accommodation in South Yorkshire; identifying 'critical moments' where intervention is needed. The research would lead to a series of architectural proposals which might be physical, mobile, technological or organisational. These proposals would look at agile interventions to counter the intersecting negative impacts of institutional accommodation. Such interventions might provide quiet spaces for conversation, pastoral support for those in trauma, opportunities for sharing food, spaces for legal advice, and even interventions that build morale in difficult times. In addition a public report with the research and proposals would be produced, opening up the ideas for others working with those living in institutional accommodation around the country. With a diverse team of partners, including the

Refugee Council, the Health Access to Refugees Project, and ourselves, we have the on-the-ground experience and an established ecosystem of contacts to approach this work in a rich and rigorous way.

The Outcomes

The five site visits would provide excellent additional activities for people living in the institutional accommodation. The architectural proposals would see our values of solidarity born out in a diverse and distributed set of projects that would have an impact on the national conversation about the kind of society we are. The report produced would become a tool and guide for our work in the future, share possibilities across the UK and raise further funding to deliver the design proposals. In time, it will be crucial in enabling us to deliver innovative structural changes in how we work with people seeking sanctuary placed in institutional accommodation; promoting the sustainable development of forced migrants looking for sanctuary in the UK.

We know that this type of “institutional accommodation causes harm” (Asylum Matters, Dec 2021). As a community that values justice and equality we must respond. This initial exploratory work, although so important, is often difficult to fund. Seed funding from the Edith M Ellis Charitable Trust would enable us to thoughtfully chart a course through this new landscape.

1.3 Which grant-giving categories does your project fulfil?

E - Work with forced migrants, including internally displaced people

F - Sustainable development

1.3e Work with forced migrants, including internally displaced people

The work proposed will be with asylum seekers placed in institutional accommodation in the UK, all of whom have experienced forced migration.

1.4 Which country is the project based in?

United Kingdom (GB)

1.5 Will the project continue after initial funding has ended?

Yes

1.5b Please give details of how you plan to continue after initial funding has ended

Once finished we will continue to work towards two things. Firstly we will work towards securing additional funding and hope that this project will be a catalyst for that. Secondly, we will actively promote the work so that others across the country can use the work to support their struggle to improve lives for forced migrants. Our hope is that both of these will challenge the increasing use of institutional accommodation.

1.6 How will the project be monitored and evaluated?

We will monitor the number of people we work with, their demographic and their asylum status. We will share our report with national partners and gather feedback on its impact. Success will also be measured by whether the project enables us to raise additional funds. Recent work with the Brelms Trust provides a good model for this. Seed funding of £4800 allowed us to develop and deliver a £25,000 redesign of The Sanctuary.

2.1 Expenditure

EXPENDITURE ITEM	AMOUNT	NOTES
Research	£2,200	10 days at £220. Including 5 site visits
Design development	£1,760	8 days at £220
Report production, collation and graphic design	£880	4 days at £220

City of Sanctuary Sheffield Director Time	£660	3 days at £220
Refugee Council Health Action for Refugee Project	£550	2.5 days at £220
Hire of The Sanctuary Space	£200	10 days at £20 per desk per day
TOTALS	£6,250	

2.2 Income

INCOME SOURCE	TARGET AMOUNT	AMOUNT RAISED	NOTES
Edith M Ellis Charitable Foundation	£4,840	£0	
City of Sanctuary Sheffield Existing Funding	£880	£860	
Health Action for Refugees Project Funding	£550	£550	
TOTALS	£6,270	£1,410	

2.3 What is the total amount (in £ sterling) your organisation is requesting from The Edith M Ellis Trust?

£4,840

2.4 Has your organisation made an application to The Edith M Ellis Trust before?

No

2.5 Please state your organisation's annual turnover (in £ sterling)

£223,193

2.6 Do you wish to upload your audited accounts or financial statement?

No

2.7 Please tell us where payment should be made if your application is successful

City of Sanctuary Sheffield
20382559
60-83-01

3.1 Your name

Thomas Martin

3.2 Your contact telephone number

07410977106

3.3 Your position within the organisation

Director

3.4 Your email address

tom@sheffield.cityofsanctuary.org

3.5 Organisation name

City of Sanctuary Sheffield

3.6 Please state the status of your organisation

UK Charity

3.7 Please summarise what your organisation does

City of Sanctuary Sheffield is an independent charity working in solidarity with forced migrants in Sheffield. We have a vision for a city that is safe and welcoming for people seeking sanctuary.

We work towards this vision in three ways:

We create welcoming spaces for people seeking sanctuary

We work in solidarity with people seeking sanctuary to promote their safety and wellbeing

We strengthen, develop and diversify the migrant rights movement in Sheffield

3.8 UK correspondence address for organisation

The Sanctuary
37-39 Chapel Walk
Sheffield
S1 2PD

3.9 UK telephone number

0114 221 1845

3.10 UK charity number (if applicable)

1172694

3.11 Year established

2017

3.12 Website (if applicable)

<https://sheffield.cityofsanctuary.org/>

3.13 Social media accounts (if applicable)

<https://www.facebook.com/cityofsanctuariesheffield>

<https://twitter.com/SheffCityofSanc>

4.1 How did you hear about The Edith M Ellis Trust?

Internet