



Charitable Incorporated Organisation no: 1154862

www.assistsheffield.org.uk

ASSIST Sheffield is a registered charity founded by concerned local citizens in 2003, in solidarity with people seeking sanctuary in Sheffield. This was a direct response to the changing policy environment that we have come to know as the Hostile Environment. Over twenty years later, we are still here and will be as long as the brutal Hostile Environment prevails.

ASSIST works to challenge destitution among those seeking sanctuary in the UK. We support individuals who, following the refusal of their claims for asylum, have been made homeless, stripped of financial support and access to secondary medical care, and denied the right to work. Having already fled persecution, war, and other catastrophes, individuals in this situation find themselves forced into dangerous and precarious situations at the margins of society, at risk of detention and deportation. They are often eligible to appeal against their asylum decisions, but without somewhere to live and financial support, they are unable to pursue their rights and often find that the very short deadline by which they can appeal their legal situation has passed.

Through the provision of accommodation, financial support, and bespoke client support services, ASSIST Sheffield fosters an atmosphere of welcome for people who have been made destitute by the asylum system. We currently deliver our services with the help of over 140 volunteers, some of whom have lived experience of the asylum system and destitution themselves.

Our goal is for everyone seeking sanctuary in our city to live with dignity. We work in solidarity and partnership with our clients.

ASSIST offers a period of relative stability and security (on average about 2 years) during which people can begin to rebuild their lives. We operate a comprehensive client support service, manage nine multi-occupancy houses and, in partnership with the city council, house five refugee families.

ASSIST has a small staff team and a large number of volunteers. Without these committed volunteers, ASSIST would not function. Our volunteers work in teams managed and supported by a staff member. We currently have a weekly helpdesk, twice weekly casework sessions, accompanying, accommodation and monthly Client Welfare support services. We also have teams ensuring our back office functions well; working on our information systems, social media, events,

fundraising and awareness-raising, campaigns, finances, grant applications and office/admin support.

The legal responsibility for the organisation is held by a board of trustees. The charity's strategic and operational oversight and decision making functions are held by a Leadership team, comprised of senior staff members and our Director.

We have a monthly Client Consultation Group, in which clients provide feedback and insight into our operations as well as our strategic development. Clients are also part of our Trustee board, ensuring client voice is at the centre of our decision making.

This is an exciting time to join ASSIST, as we seek to develop our work and harvest the learning of over 20 years experience of successful solidarity in action.

For more information please read our latest annual report. This is available on our website: <http://assistsheffield.org.uk/about-us>