

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE
Leader of Portsmouth City Council

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Our Ref: GVJOUT068

Date: 17th June 2019

Malcolm Little, Service Manager
British Red Cross, Hampshire, IoW &
Surrey

David Hill, Director, ArtReach

Via email

Dear Malcolm and David,

Portsmouth City Council are committed to embracing diversity, celebrating the unique worth of every individual and ensuring that Portsmouth is a safe and welcoming city. I write to you as leader of the Council, to formally pledge our support for Portsmouth as a City of Sanctuary.

Portsmouth City council has a strong history of involvement, advocacy and leading initiatives that create opportunity for individuals to be safe and thrive. These include:

- The Armed Forces Covenant;
- Modern slavery statement;
- The Prevent agenda;
- Rough sleeper and homelessness reduction initiatives;
- Advice, advocacy, intervention, refuge and outreach to those affected by domestic abuse; and
- Projects to support the health, safety, housing and education of un-accompanied minors and those with no recourse to public funds.

Our work to date has demonstrated the importance of working in partnership to address complex issues, and we welcome the opportunity to become part of Portsmouth's City of Sanctuary group, led by The British Red Cross (Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Surry) and ArtReach. As a supporting organisation we pledge to work with Portsmouth's City of Sanctuary group to:

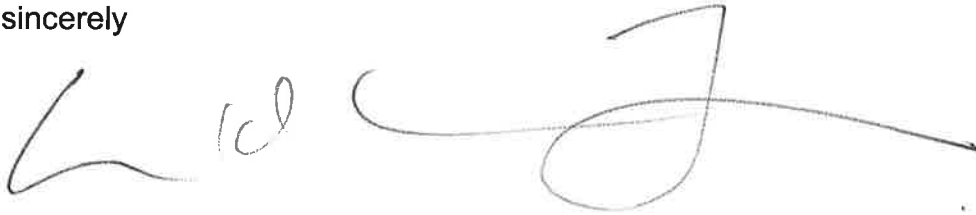
- Find out what it means to be seeking sanctuary, and be active in awareness raising;

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- Take positive action, to make welcome and inclusion, more explicit within our organisation values;
- Support sanctuary seekers through our policies and practice, and to include them in our activities; and,
- Let others know about the positive contribution those seeking sanctuary make to our society, and the benefits of a welcoming culture to everyone.

I look forward to working with you as we develop our response to this important agenda.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gerald Vernon-Jackson', written in a cursive style.

Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE
Leader of the Council