

A Lancashire Refugee Council (LRC)?

Report on Scoping Research (Report 1)

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Glossary

ASR	Asylum Seekers and Refugees
Core research team	UCLan research team
Extended research team	The Core UCLan research team and Co-researchers
FTR	Free text responses (voluntary comments)
LCC	Lancashire County Council
LRC	Lancashire Refugee Council
RIT	Refugee Integration Team
Sanctuary Seekers	A collective term for Refugees and Asylum seeking people
VFSO	Voluntary and Faith Sector Organisations

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1.0 Introduction: the scope of this research

This report presents findings from research undertaken to elicit views, concerns and ideas from key groups or stakeholders in Lancashire in relation to a potential Lancashire Refugee Council (LRC). The research was requested by Lancashire Council Council (LCC) in late 2020 in order to inform what was a nascent coordinating committee or LRC Acting Board as to the potential support for and development of this initiative. The Core research team from the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) met with and consulted with this LRC Acting Board from October 2020, in response to the research request, to develop the research plan which was accepted in early 2021.

The overarching purpose of the research was to flesh out and define what the purpose, priorities and working model of an LRC might be. It had 4 broad aims within that: a) to communicate and consult on the proposal for an LRC and proposed activities of an LRC; b) to identify priority issues that an LRC might focus on; c) identify how an LRC could work and what value such a County-wide initiative might have and *add* to what already exists and happens in different parts of Lancashire in relation to Sanctuary Seeker (Asylum Seekers and Refugees) support and d) across these, begin to identify challenges/ opportunities the group could helpfully be aware of.

The stakeholders from whom the research has sought views and ideas are: Asylum Seekers and Refugees (ASR) in Lancashire, referred to as Sanctuary Seekers through the report unless a distinction is helpful; Voluntary and Faith Sector Organisations (VFSO) in the County; and County-level and community based statutory role holders and organisations such as LCC employees, Local and district authority employees, libraries, neighbourhood offices. Views and ideas were sought through 3 different surveys that were open for completion between January and June 2022 (Statutory) and May – June 2022 (Sanctuary Seekers and VFSO).

Another linked project was requested of the core research team in late 2020 and has run alongside this LRC scoping research, namely a Community Based Researcher Capacity Building project (CBRCB). Connected to one of the proposed activities of an LRC - that it could carry out its own research about matters important to ASR and share results to improve understanding – this project offered intensive research training to 8 people with refugee and migration backgrounds and then the opportunity, for those who had completed the training, to gain experience in data analysis and report writing as Co-Researchers with the core team. This project has run between February and July 2022. The projects are connected and so whilst the CBRCB project is written up separately the reports make reference to each other. This report is referred to as Report 1 and the CBRCB report, Report 2 and the authors of this report are the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) Core Research Team (Lara Momesso, Caroline Blunt, Pat Cox) and CBRCB Coresearchers (Suhir Abuhajar,

Samara Atassi, Runda Gaafer, Ahlam Hasan, Mohammad Issa, Reem Gahallah), to reflect the intensive work we have done together. The report refers to the Research Team or 'authors' where it includes the Coresearchers and the Core Research Team where it is necessary to distinguish between responsibilities taken, particularly in the planning of the project.

That this research was requested in late 2020 and has only taken place in 2022 is due to a combination of factors beyond the control of the Core Research Team and the LRC Acting Board. Connected to the myriad of COVID related upheavals, this is regrettable but was unavoidable, and there is no doubt that little or no one has been unaffected by this unusual time, not least community facing, community/ place based initiatives and activity. The projects have been shaped by though not wholly determined by this time, particularly when it comes the choice of survey methodology, as this report will elaborate.

1.1 Shape of this report

This report as a whole accounts for the research: how and why it was done, what data was gathered from whom and what the data gathered showed directly and/ or suggests to the commissioners and LRC Acting Board in terms of next steps that might be taken.

It proceeds in 5 main sections. It begins with setting out the background to and context of a proposed LRC and this is followed by outlining the Methodology. It then goes on to present the key findings from the research that reflect the aims of the research. The findings are presented in 5 sections. The first, *Direction of travel? General patterns and signals regarding the proposed LRC*, offers the reader an overview of patterns of responses to proposed activities. This is intended to give an indication of whether there appears to be support for an LRC among those who participated in the research. Sections 4.2 – 4.6 present more detailed findings on *Activities, Values, Structure and Conceptual Status*. These headings not only categorise the topics on which data was sought and/ or found through the surveys, but they are also suggested as a way that the LRC Acting board might be able to 'map out' the potential organisation. Section 4.2 explains this in more detail and also offers a diagram of how these headings/ organisational elements link together. The final section of the report *Conclusions and Recommendations* summarises key points that have emerged from the research, makes recommendations and offers some reflections from the Extended research team that could support the LRC Acting Board in its next steps.

Much data was gathered during this research: altogether 699 closed question responses and 200 free-text responses (FTR) varying in length from 3 words to 30. Participants gave precious time and thought to their responses, for which we are grateful. Whilst researchers, and particularly the

inclinations of this research team, would wish that readers take as much interest in all the details, phrases, single words as the analyst, the reader may be relieved that this volume is not presented verbatim in the main body of the report. Every effort has been made, through careful analysis, to accurately and faithfully represent key patterns, themes and ideas evident from the data in charts and words and only where especially pertinent or helpful, cite particular comments anonymously, redacting any details that might identify an individual or organisation from a comment. In the appendix, however, for those interested readers, can be found complete data tables, from which the analysis has been conducted and the report produced. Details have been redacted where necessary to comply with GDPR. The appendix also offers other supplementary documents such as survey questions.

Whilst every reader will approach the findings slightly differently according to her/his personal, professional or institutional interest and this cannot be wholly determined by the authors, the Core Research team consider that the scope and status of this report merits brief advisory comments here in relation to how the data may be approached for future plans/ next steps. This will also be returned to in the methodology, first and fifth key findings sections and the Conclusions/ recommendations.

1.2 Scope of the report

It is based on *both* the content and quantity of the data gathered, that the Core research team proposes that this report, be regarded in a particular way. Rather than providing a definitive or the only source of answers to the question of whether an LRC should go ahead, we suggest that that the findings be treated as offering significant signals regarding an LRC's status, focus and form to inform what the authors consider needs to be a variegated process of consultation/ preparation for the proposed LRC. This suggestion may not be welcomed, particularly given delays that have attended this scoping research. However, the potential significance of a County-wide initiative in Lancashire is highlighted by the research. The pioneers of this initiative have hope for an LRC that is structured, focused and engaged in such a way that builds on and adds value to work already done in the County so as to make a positive difference to the lives of Sanctuary seekers and the existing support infrastructure (VFSO and statutory) in the County. The research suggests that for an LRC to do that; for it to meet evident, sometimes acutely expressed, hope that it would and respond carefully to evident concerns about its aspirations, will require, in the Research Team's opinion, more

consultative and preparatory work that the signals picked up by this Scoping research can helpfully and strongly inform.

As the subsequent section outlines, this report has been produced not only by the UCLan Core research team but with input from Coresearchers who have been part of a connected Community Based Researcher Capacity Building Project (CBRCB) that has run concurrently with the Scoping review. These Co researchers have been working with the UCLan research team on the Scoping Review research only between the third week of May and the end of June; working principally on data analysis together during this time of the Scoping Review, it was - both as an experience and as a product – made more lively, enjoyable and effective – as a bigger team/ panel exercise. Significant insights were achieved together that have made their way into this report. In addition, our last session together was spent working on methodological reflections, the Core Team are grateful for the critical distance the Coresearchers could bring to that. Coresearchers, where they chose, are duly credited for their contributions, as co-authors of this report. The coresearchers were not however involved at earlier stages or in the final pulling together of all parts of the analysis and report. The ultimate responsibility therefore and for any limitations of the research design and this final report’s weaknesses or errors, rests with the UCLan Core Research team.

Scoping Review Core Research Team

University of Central Lancashire (UCLan)

July 2022

2.0 Background and context

This section of the report offers the reader not only an account of how this project developed but also brief insight into the wider social and political context in which a proposal for an LRC and this research to gauge support for it, can be placed and understood.

2.1 Origin and passage of the Scoping Review project

The idea of a Lancashire Refugee Council (LRC) was initiated between staff members at Lancashire County Council (Refugee Integration Team) and local refugees. A group composed of individual refugees, some of whom were/ are active in voluntary/ faith sector organisations (VFSO), other VFSO representatives and staff from the Refugee Integration Team (RIT) was brought together by a member of the RIT in April 2020 and this group began meeting monthly. This group became the Acting Board of a proposed LRC.

One of the Core Research Team was approached by LCC in the Summer of 2020 regarding the possibility of undertaking a Scoping review into how supported an LRC might be in the County. This was on the back of undertaking previous research for LCC: a Community Integration Needs Assessment in relation to Syrian refugees settled through the Syrian Vulnerable Person's Resettlement Programme (SVPRP) and Vulnerable Children's Resettlement scheme (VCRS) (Blunt 2018). At the same time and connected to the requested Scoping review, LCC raised the possibility of a Research Training project for people with refugee backgrounds. Two colleagues were approached to form a UCLan team for the two prospective projects and the core team formed. Proposals were developed for this Scoping Review and what became the Community Based Research Capacity Building Project (CBRCB), presented to the LRC Acting Board on October 13th 2020 and formally accepted by LCC on behalf of the Acting Board, at the end of 2020. The Scoping Review was planned to be done principally through 3 online surveys to ascertain views from 3 groups: Sanctuary Seekers, statutory personnel and VFSO representatives, but also planned were ways in which we could, from the LRC Acting Board and their meetings, explore and document hopes and motivations for an LRC to be able to create something of a record of this potential organisation.

The start of both projects was significantly delayed, in most part due to COVID 19 related upheaval affecting working patterns, capacities, workloads for different people involved in Ethics boards, Information Governance and Contracts/ legal affairs. The Core Research Team continued to attend LRC Acting Board meetings to update the group on progress. It was clearly very frustrating to the group which felt dependent upon the research to be able to move forward. The research in turn was dependent upon UCLan Ethical approval and information Governance compliance checking and

contracts agreement between UCLan and LCC, when these were completed in mid December 2021, the Core Research Team made final preparations necessary to begin the research in January 2022. Two members of the Core Research Team met with the LRC Acting Board on the 24th January, the earliest opportunity available for everyone, to share the plan of how things would go and seek support in publicising the research. As will be discussed in the methodology section, issues with survey and project documentation translations caused some further delay but finally all 3 online surveys designed for the research were open by the 9th May and closed on the 25th June 2022.

In preparation for the surveys opening, the Core Research Team met with Mohammad Issa, Digital Inclusion worker with Calico, which is an organisation supporting Resettled Refugees in Burnley, Lancashire. As part of his work Mohammad had brought together Lancashire wide Digital Champions, a group of mainly Syrian refugees from all over Lancashire supported to provide peer support to refugees in their areas, particularly with digital issues but also other things. This group had been suggested as possible helpers to the research in terms of disseminating the online survey link for the Sanctuary Seeker Survey and supporting refugees complete it for, although it was available in Arabic as well as 6 other languages, we were aware that there could be literacy issues that posed a barrier to participating. Two members of the Core Research Team met the Champions online on 2 occasions before the surveys opened to talk through what it would involve and mean to be a Survey Supporter. Four Champions came forward, all Arabic speakers, to be Survey Supporters and helped throughout the survey opening period. Two Core Research Team members provided drop-in support sessions for these volunteer Survey Supporters weekly over this duration.

Concurrently to this Scoping Review, two members of the Core Research Team (Caroline Blunt and Pat Cox) ran the Community Based Research Capacity Building (CBRCB) project (see Report 2) the first stage of which involved providing Research training online to 8 people between the end of February and third week of March 2022. Integral to that project was the opportunity for those who had completed the training, and were interested, to become Coresearchers with the UCLan team for the remainder of the LRC Scoping Review research. Six of the original 8 course participants committed to this second stage of the CBRCB project, which ran for 7 weeks. Meeting together weekly for 2 hours, the Coresearchers were given the opportunity to be part of Research Team discussions and decisions (for example reviewing data collection progress and about extending the surveys opening time to include Refugee Week) and moreover, work together on Scoping Review data analysis as it came in. Contrasting extracts of data were shared with this extended research team during these meetings, the Core Research team having redacted any identifying data beforehand, and over the course of 7 weeks, data analysis skills were practised, developed, guided

and aspects of report writing were also discussed, and methodological reflections worked on together.

Aside from the 3 online surveys that were designed to gather views and ideas on an LRC from Sanctuary Seekers, Statutory staff (Councils, libraries, neighbourhood offices) and Voluntary and Faith Sector Organisation (VFSO) representatives, the Core Research Team had planned that the Scoping Review project would include other elements involving the LRC Acting Board, mentioned above. Members were invited to take part in individual research interviews, permission was sought to attend meetings as observers and a request was sent to conduct a focus group with the whole group, however none of these invitations were accepted and taken up. We did not continue requesting these. It is possible that the delays that have beset this project have impacted on this group's momentum, something that will be returned to in the conclusion. Whatever the reasons of the group and individually, the research is now complete and is submitted to both LCC as commissioners and the LRC Acting Board as well as for wider readership to decide next steps which this research can hopefully and helpfully, inform.

2.2 Wider context for proposal of a Lancashire Refugee Council (LRC)

Like many other areas of the UK, Lancashire County is comprised of both internal and external migrant peoples and their current descendants (Portes and DeWind 2008). Both in the twentieth century and more recently, individuals, families and groups fleeing war, famine, drought and persecution in their own nations – refugees and people seeking asylum, known collectively as Sanctuary Seekers – have been, and are, arriving in Lancashire and making new lives in the County.

The proposal for an LRC can be summarised as:

a plan for an organisation that is structured, focused and engaged in such a way that builds on and adds value to work already done in the County so as to make a positive difference to the lives of Sanctuary Seekers and the existing support infrastructure (VFSO and statutory) in the County.

This proposed organisation can be situated within both the earlier established and ongoing initiatives in several parts of this county and elsewhere across the country by statutory services, Voluntary and Faith Sector Organisations (VFSO) and migrant/ non migrant individuals, all aiming to improve the lives of, and opportunities for, particularly, newly arriving, sanctuary seeking individuals, families and groups (see also Report 2).

In Lancashire alone there are estimated to be 200 plus VFSO organisations and an LRC could be seen simply as a potential further addition to the list. However, public policy since legislation in 1999 which brought in Asylum Seeker dispersal (from 2001) but moreover and more radically, since 2014 with the start of the Syrian Vulnerable Person's Resettlement Programme (SVPRP) has arguably significantly changed the situation, need for, and demands on, Sanctuary Seeker support (see Blunt 2021; Griffiths, Sigona and Zetter 2005; Hough 2018). To propose a Lancashire wide initiative at this moment meets a particular set of challenges and opportunities. With parts of Lancashire enrolled in Asylum Seeker dispersal for some years and the County's participation in the SVPRS since 2016 and subsequent Resettlement Schemes since 2019, it is a County, a support infrastructure (Statutory and VFSO), and moreover, a significant number of Sanctuary Seekers who are at the forefront of adapting to/ coping with the effects of these changes. What are those changes and their effects? What implications do they have for, or of what relevance are they to a proposed LRC?

In 2005, Griffiths, Sigona and Zetter published observations on the impacts of the then relatively new national Asylum Seeker dispersal regime (2001 -) on integration and the status and capacity of Refugee Community Organisation (RCOs) and community-based organisations supporting refugees and asylum seekers. Its relevance here is that, although there had been significant controversial interventions by past Governments to, top-down, impose particular patterns of settlement on sanctuary seekers and in fact, migrants and ethnic minorities more generally (see Favell 1998; Robinson, Andersson and Musterd 2003), Asylum Seeker dispersal provided a template for conditions on State 'support' for people whilst awaiting a decision on their Asylum claim that the 2014 Syrian Vulnerable Persons' Resettlement Scheme (SVPRS) has now normalised for *refugees*. The SVPRS not only marked an historic sea-change in UK policy towards favouring large-scale continuous Resettlement schemes/ programmes, reflecting a wider trend (Collyer, Brown, Morrice and Tip 2017; Swing 2017), but it set a precedent in the acceptability of no-choice [cheap] housing-led dispersal of *refugees* in controlled numbers to avoid large clusters with Case work and ESOL support conditional on staying in this locality for 5 years. This has been described as isolationist and segregationist (see Blunt 2021) and indicative of a wider top-down restrictionist turn.

Whilst there are still claims (Darling 2009; Karyotis, Mulvey and Skleparis 2020; Kinlen 2011; Swing 2017) that echo at least faintly Bloch's (1999) comparison of Resettlement to a 'Rolls Royce' provision of sanctuary compared to a 'rickshaw' experience for individuals making independent claims for Asylum, the SVPRS has now set some troubling precedents and the impacts Griffiths et al identified regarding refugee self-organisation/ support and integration have already been seen and are likely to be amplified. Not to romanticise the situation for people seeking Asylum prior to 2001, or diminish some of the relative benefits of current Resettlement Programmes (e.g. right to work,

full level welfare benefits, leave to remain) but the rights to choose where to live, with whom, near whom people chose, have been argued to have been favourable circumstances for the growth of self-organisation, Refugee Community Organisations (RCOs), other Voluntary Sector support organisations and for integration (Griffiths, Sigona and Zetter 2005). These rights and consequent benefits now also don't exist for refugees who are part of Resettlement Programmes and dependent on the accommodation and Case work support they find and provide.

How does this provide a context for a Lancashire Refugee Council? Lancashire is typical of the counties and localities enrolled in asylum seeker dispersal: from pressurised housing areas of the south east to areas of surplus in the industrial cities in the Midlands, the north and Scotland (Griffiths et al 2005: 27). If that was Asylum Seeker dispersal, research has shown that the SVPRS was cheap housing-led. Whilst localities, district and local authorities could volunteer to participate, in Lancashire, for example, there were not enough pledges of participation that any were refused (Blunt 2018). This means that refugees are resettled in areas that do not necessarily have any existing support structures. Whilst Asylum Seekers have no state provided integration support, Resettled refugees are at the mercy of a 'bottom-up' approach to community integration (Blunt 2018, 2021), which can mean that support to settle, to make contact with people, to communicate, can be a matter of the locality-draw: where someone happens to be accommodated and what community based bottom-up resources for integration are available. Some areas of Lancashire have experience of migrant and refugee resettlement, there are established organisations. Some don't. This means that being a refugee in one part of Lancashire can be a starkly different experience to living in another and attempting to support refugees in less experienced and less resourced places can be entirely different to the cities, for example.

A Lancashire Refugee Council is proposed at a challenging moment for Sanctuary Seeker support: of increasing need in many more places and where therefore a greater number of community based organisations wishing to provide support find themselves in competition for limited funding. There are longer established precedents for county-wide organisations, over the border for example, suggesting that such a body can have value, contribute in particular ways, regardless of policy changes. But each county has its own challenges and strengths, and to the question of and deliberations over whether it is an organisation appropriate for Lancashire, this research can hopefully inform.

3.0 Methodology

This research was commissioned and designed at an extraordinary moment in terms of the COVID related measures and their impact on free association and face to face contact. In terms of research, UCLan, like other institutions, brought much existing research to a halt, postponed it or suggested alterations to research methodology where it involved being in-person. It was necessary to transfer to computer mediated and electronic methods where possible/ telephone if not, with many implications for social research.

Given that it was not known how long these additional ethical considerations were going to be in place and we had planned for the research to start in early 2021, it was necessary to choose electronic methods that could be used regardless of potentially changing restrictions, bearing in mind however issues of digital exclusion that can affect participation in online research.

Online factors add to what have been long-discussed strengths and weakness of survey research. Surveys are criticised for valorising measurement at the price of understanding and inhibiting the possibility of truly knowing what sense or meaning participants are making. There is no opportunity to check meaning at the time: 'there is no possibility of dialogue' (May, Perry and Sutton 2022). Almost greater understanding of the social context in which a survey will be completed is required over a face-to-face method where there are many immediate social cues. And survey response rates tend to be low, influenced by many issues including respondents' motivation (Robson and MacCarten 2016). In terms of their strengths they understood to adaptable to different purposes such as exploratory, descriptive or explanatory research and can make possible analysis of large populations (Balnaves and Caputi 2001: 103). Furthermore, the anonymity they can afford can encourage people to write freely (Robson and MacCarten 2016). All of these strengths were relevant in deciding the methodology for this research. However, it is May, Perry and Sutton's (2022) account of the value of survey methodology which particularly resonates with our evaluation of its suitability. They write that surveys can be useful when applied in combination with other methods: for example, a survey might be undertaken to 'scope out' (something) and indicate what questions might need to be included later in individual interviews or focus groups, thus assisting in developing more nuanced understanding about the (something) and what actions or interventions might be needed next.

All of these factors were weighed up and weighed up in light of the core research team's extensive experience in mainly qualitative research methods. Finally, here, for mainly qualitative researchers such as the Core Research team, the choice of survey methodology was, perhaps surprisingly, an

ethical one. This drew on our experience of conducting qualitative research with migrants and Sanctuary Seekers, where less structured methods can elicit a great deal of personal detail and history that can be painful to recall, talk about and sometimes it cannot all be used in the research. We were very conscious of the discrete purpose of this research: to consult on an LRC and thus survey methodology also offered a way to protect against avoid over-disclosure of details that would not be purposeful to this.

3.1 Developing the survey questions

Having decided on survey methodology, our aim was to gain focused quantitative and qualitative data and we designed a semi-structured questionnaire survey and produced 3 slightly different versions of this survey to gather data from Sanctuary Seekers, Statutory role holders and VFSSO representatives.

The questions were developed and drawn from a draft constitution that the LRC Acting Board had produced. This set out proposed activities and aims of an LRC which the Scoping Review needed to consult upon.

We were aware that the scoping research may be the first that some participants would be hearing about the idea of an LRC. One of our aims, beyond the survey preamble giving background to the research (which, whilst required by GDPR and for ethical clearance but is not always read thoroughly by participants) was that the questions *inform and consult*: ‘this is proposed ...what is your view?’

Questions 1-4 and 5-7 on all 3 surveys were phrased directly like this, focusing directly on proposals. For example:

1. It is proposed that a Lancashire Refugee Council (LRC) could provide information, signposting to services and activities for Asylum Seekers/ refugees across Lancashire, e.g. Language classes, about the education system in the UK, Immigration, Solicitors and Legal help, information on rights, the NHS, among other things.

**What value would this have to your work/ organisation? (VFSSO/ Statutory surveys)
Would this be useful to you? (Sanctuary Seekers)**

Q5 asked respondents to identify most important topics, from their experience, that an LRC might develop subgroups on. The last questions of the survey were slightly different. On the one hand they did not present specific proposals for response but rather sought ideas about how an LRC might be best structured and run and attempted to gauge more generally, interest in and enthusiasm for

an LRC. Finally, based on the variety of proposals presented to participants through the questions, the surveys asked what difference, if any, people thought an LRC could make to them: what value it could add to what they had/ did. The aim was that through the questions which respondents would *see and read in order*, if not necessarily *answer in order*, a bigger picture or impression would be built up of the LRC proposal(s) which would provide a basis for general responses at the end.

Overall then, through the range of questions asked, the surveys aimed to cumulatively communicate and consult on:

LRC as an organisation that is engaged, focused and structured in such a way that builds on and adds value to work already done in the County so as to make a positive difference to the lives of Sanctuary Seekers and work of VFSO/ statutory organisations in the County.

3.2 Disseminating the survey and supporting completion

Having decided upon survey methodology, we had access to the University's GDPR approved JISC online survey software. This generated survey links and QR codes for dissemination.

The statutory survey link was disseminated by email having developed a database of publicly available contact information. LCC, Local Authority staff, libraries, neighbourhood offices across Lancashire were included in the invitations. 70 direct invitations were sent out and it was requested that recipients let others know. However, despite opening in January 2022 and remaining open until the 25th June, only 14 statutory participants responded.

The Sanctuary Seeker survey was made available in 7 languages: English, Arabic, Farsi, Dari, Pashto, Sorani and Tigrinya, reflecting the main languages spoken in the county among Sanctuary Seekers. However we knew that language may not be the only barrier. There were potentially literacy issues affecting being able to read the survey among other issues of interest, motivation. We worked together with Mohammad Issa, a Digital inclusion worker with refugees in Lancashire, to have support from Digital champions, a group of refugees from all over Lancashire, brought together by Mohammad, who offered peer support in their localities. 4 champions came forward and were available to support the survey for its duration. It opened on the 9th May and closed on the 25th June, extended to include Refugee Week (20 – 26 June). The surveys included project telephone numbers for the main researchers and invitations to text/ call for any support. When the survey closed, there were 58 completed surveys from Sanctuary Seekers received: 11 English versions, 1 Dari, 4 Farsi and the remainder Arabic.

The VFSO survey version was open for the same duration. The Core research team had developed and continued to develop a database of publicly available contact information for VFSO across Lancashire. 168 VFSO were invited by emailed and/ or telephoned to invite participation and over the period of the survey opening time, 9 May – 25 June, reminders were sent out. By the survey closure data, 42 VFSO had responded.

3.3 Response rates

There are also many factors involved in response-rates, including: whether the survey distribution depends at all on ‘gatekeepers’ and ‘snow-balling’ for distribution (e.g. in this case Resettlement Case workers and VFSO telling Sanctuary Seekers about the survey/ (VFSO spreading the word/ link to others, statutory participants passing on the link and Sanctuary Seekers telling other Sanctuary Seekers about it); time that potential participants have; literacy issues; internet access in this case; reminders sent; and the generally known low-response rate to surveys). Where the researchers do not ultimately know how many people heard about the survey, the proportions that chose *not* to respond, cannot be guessed at. At any rate, research has shown that, across all types of survey research, anything above 25% response-rate (proportion of the targeted population responding) should be considered a good rate and therefore this sort of level of response cannot tell us directly about interest in the *specific* topic presented. Furthermore, the response rate does *not* of course tell us anything about whether it mattered in a positive way or a negative way. With these factors in mind, can anything be said about the response levels to the 3 surveys undertaken here that can indicate if the proposal for an LRC was considered important?

168 VFSO were emailed directly to invite participation in the research and 70 statutory organisations or role holders were invited to participate. Both statutory and VFSO emails included a request that information and links for the survey be passed on to Sanctuary Seekers accessing their service/ organisation. That there were 42 VFSO responses and 14 statutory responses give response rates of 25% and 20% respectively. That 58 Sanctuary Seekers responded to the survey is a tiny proportion of the whole Sanctuary Seeker population in Lancashire which can only be estimated, but if there are alone over 700 Sanctuary Seekers who have come to Lancashire through the resettlement programmes, it is clear the research has heard from – and most likely not reached – a tiny proportion. Although the Sanctuary Seeker survey was made available in 7 languages, that the Survey supporters were Arabic speakers has likely affected response rates among other linguistic groups, as we consider their support as having been instrumental in achieving the 58 responses.

3.4 Methodological reflections

There were 114 survey responses altogether: 58 from Sanctuary Seekers, 14 from statutory role holders and 42 from VFSSO representatives. Together with the Extended research team, methodological reflection was undertaken to explore, considering the data that we had analysed together, the pros and cons of survey methodology for this research. In terms of advantages, it was reflected that it had collected many opinions from different organisations. The free text response (FTR) space had been used and it was felt that participants had expressed themselves freely, giving strong indications of thinking. On the other hand, disadvantages were identified. It was felt to be a potential disadvantage that the survey may have been the first people had heard about an LRC; that it was doing *informing* and consulting and the survey could not give more information about an LRC. The team reflected that most of the FTR were from VFSSO and weren't so numerous among the larger number of Sanctuary Seeker respondents. A further critical reflection was that there were no responses from some language groups. Arabic survey responses had been the most numerous and potentially this may have reflected that the Survey Supporters encouraged other Arabic speakers to participate. It is also a reflection that the responses may be made up predominantly of resettled refugees because of the possibility that Case workers for this group were encouraged to support the survey. All VFSSOs invited had been asked to let Sanctuary Seekers know about the survey, as well as invited to complete the survey themselves, but it was difficult to know how widely Sanctuary Seekers were in fact told about it. It was a lot to ask of already busy and stretched VFSSO. We had provided multi-language fliers to display, but we do not know if these were emailed/ displayed.

The Extended research team discussed what stood out from the survey data. Firstly, it was remarked upon by the Co-researchers that conducting analysis together had surprised them for the level of attention paid to opinions expressed. It was felt that people generally did not know how their opinion could matter when offered through survey methodology. Secondly it was noted that the LRC aims were not clear: to work with Sanctuary Seekers directly or work with organisations or both, as this was something that had come through clearly in the data with Sanctuary Seekers in particular and will be a topic of discussion in this report.

3.4 Analysis

This report draws on different kinds of evidence in and analysis of the data, patterns in the numbers of responses, patterns in the Free Text Responses (FTR), isolated comments, recurring comments and identification of themes from familiarity with and analysis of all the data, including more

quantitative data. These are different ways in which researchers have taken notice or paid attention to what was said, careful not to dismiss singular comments for their potential significance, recurring comments for what they point to or impressions gained from reading 'between the lines' of response tallies and words. As far as possible, the Extended research team sought to prioritise understanding over measurement, recognising however, that both words and numbers could be powerful and in combination, greater understanding achieved.

4.0 Key findings from the research

The research was commissioned to elicit views, concerns and ideas from key groups or stakeholders in Lancashire in relation to a potential Lancashire Refugee Council. In short, the surveys were designed to gather views on what the LRC aspires to do, be, and how it could work. This section presents findings from analysis of the data gathered: 114 survey responses received from the 3 groups: Sanctuary Seekers (58), Statutory Sector (14) and VFSO respondents (42).

The aim here is not only to report on the data gathered but the Core Research Team have sought to organise and present the data in a way that may be of help to the LRC Acting board for next steps, potentially providing a framework for further consultation/ preparation, and clarity to readers less familiar with what was proposed.

The findings are presented in 5 sections. The first, *Direction of travel? General patterns and signals regarding the proposed LRC*, offers the reader an overview of patterns of responses to proposed activities. This is intended to give an indication of whether there appears to be support for an LRC among those who participated in the research. Sections 4.3 – 4.6 present more detailed findings on *Activities, Values, Structure and Conceptual Status*. These headings not only categorise the topics on which data was sought and/ or found through the surveys, but they are also suggested as a way that the LRC Acting board might be able to ‘map out’ the potential organisation. Section 4.2 explains this in more detail and also offers a diagram of how these headings/ organisational elements link together.

Before presenting these findings, we offer the reader an easy reference, below, to the LRC proposals that were communicated and consulted on in the surveys (Table 1). They appear in the order in which they appeared in the survey and the question number is also identified. Key parts of the proposals are underlined here, to aid the reader.

Figure 1. LRC proposals as set out in the survey questions

Q1	<i>It is proposed that an LRC could <u>provide information, signposting to services and activities for Asylum Seekers/ refugees across Lancashire</u>, e.g. Language classes, about the education system in the UK, Immigration, Solicitors and Legal help, information on rights, the NHS, among other things.</i>
Q2	<i>It is proposed that LRC could <u>promote the diverse voices of refugees/ Asylum Seekers in Lancashire so that the County and beyond (UK/ internationally) know that sanctuary seekers live in the County and what their experience and needs are</u></i>
Q3	<i>That an LRC could aim to <u>influence and guide statutory providers (Councils, SERCO, Home Office, Health Services, Police) by, for example, sharing examples of Sanctuary Seekers' experience, making representations to key people, offering guidance, training to those statutory providers on the experiences, challenges, rights and needs of Asylum Seekers and refugees</u></i>
Q4	<i>That an LRC could <u>be a link between Asylum Seekers/ Refugees living in the County and between Community Organisations that work with Refugees and Asylum Seekers across Lancashire</u></i>
Q5	<i>That an LRC could <u>have sub-groups that would focus on issues most important to Refugees/ Asylum Seekers (e.g. health, education, employment)</u></i>
Q6	<i>That an LRC could <u>carry out its own research about matters important to Refugees/ Asylum Seekers</u> and share results to improve understanding.</i>
Q7	<i>That an LRC <u>be led and run by Sanctuary Seekers from within the County</u>, some of whom also work with established organisations</i>
Q8 (parts of)	<i>That an LRC <u>be structured and work so that the diverse populations and organisations can feel part of it</u></i> <i>Questions about membership, involvement, relationship with an LRC</i>
Q8 (parts of)	<i>It is proposed that an LRC can <u>build on the value of work already done and bring further added value to that.</u></i>
[Q8c	<i>What <u>difference, if any, could an LRC make to the work that you do?</u> (Statutory and VFSO surveys: closed response and free text answer options available)</i>
Q9	<i>What <u>difference, if any, could an LRC make to you?</u> (Sanctuary Seekers: only free text answer option available)]</i>
Q8b (statutory)	<i>What kind of relationship might your organisation like to have with a LRC?</i>
<i>An additional question of the statutory survey (parts of Q8) ask about general support for an LRC (Statutory version).</i>	

4.1 Direction of travel: General Patterns and Signals regarding the proposed LRC

This section offers the reader an overview of patterns of responses to proposed activities. This is intended to give an indication of whether there appears to be support for an LRC among those who participated in the research. To do this, firstly observations are made about the response rates. Secondly, responses to the direct question asked of statutory participants as to whether they would be supportive of an LRC are presented, followed by what can be shown by an analysis of multiple proposal/question responses.

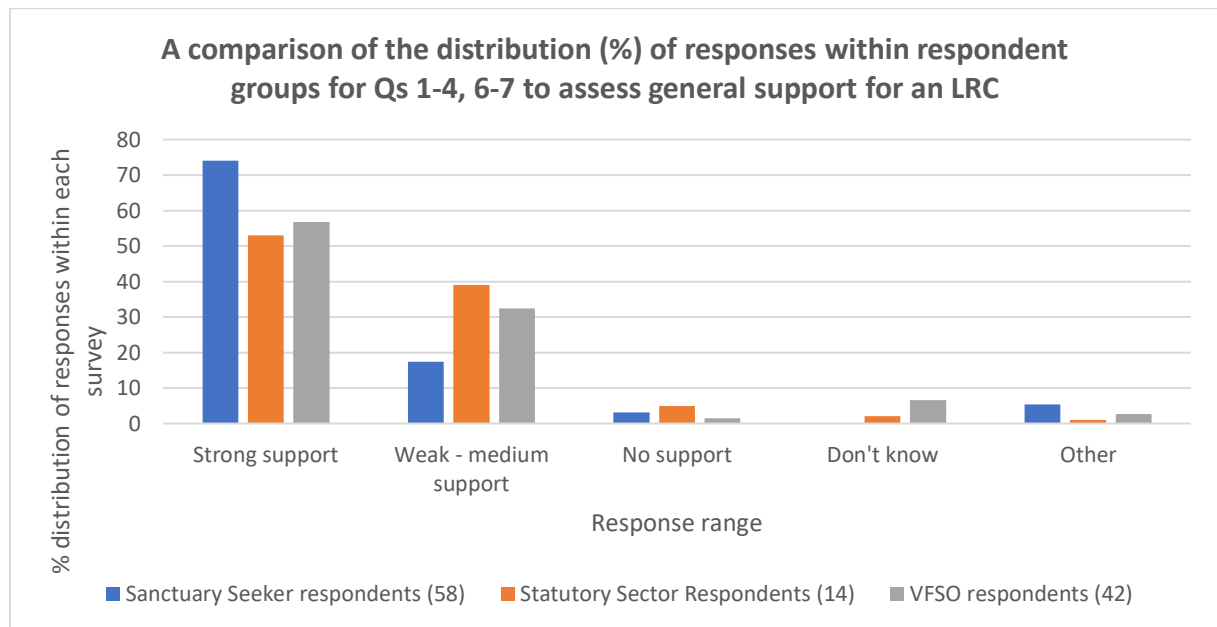
Survey response rates – how many people respond to an invitation to participate and complete the survey – can offer a very rough indication of whether the topic of the survey interests and matters to them. As discussed in the methodology section, a good survey response rate is considered to be anything above 25%, there are many factors involved and the response rate in itself cannot tell us whether it mattered positively or negatively. This said, that the research achieved a 25% rate among VFSO directly invited and 20% rate from direct invitations to statutory role holders/ organisations, offer signals that the possibility of an LRC was considered important among a reasonably - good number of respondents. The level of response among Sanctuary Seekers cannot be evaluated because it was so dependent on the support and encouragement of ‘gate keepers’ and a ‘snow-balling’ technique of distribution and a small number of Champion Survey Supporters. However, anecdotal evidence from experiences discussed in the Extended Research team suggests that 58 responses from Sanctuary Seekers should be considered good. No incentives were offered to any group for participation, indeed it will have cost what we know is precious time and concentration, and so we can say, overall, that participation reflected voluntaristic, self-motivated participation that indicates that the proposal for an LRC mattered to a reasonable – good degree. There is interest and it is possible that the proposal for an LRC is an idea now in more general circulation even if people did not complete the survey, preparing ground for reception of and wider feedback to the findings of the research. In terms of whether mattering to people is an indication of positive or negative attention, we turn to the findings themselves.

The Core Research team has conducted a cross-question and cross-group analysis of responses to questions that stated proposed activities of the LRC (figure 2. Appendix). The questions included in this analysis were proposals/questions 1–4 and 6-7 identified in the table above. (Question 5, slightly different, as mentioned in the methodology section, is not included.) These were questions that addressed specific aspects of what an LRC aspires to *do* and *be*. These questions offered closed

answer options from which to select as well as space for Free Text Responses- FTR, however only the closed option answer selections are included in this analysis. To make this overview analysis possible, different ranges of answer options available for different questions have been collapsed into new standard categories to make comparison possible. For example: ‘very much/ really needed/’ are coded as ‘Strongly support’; ‘done a little but could be done more’/ better’/ ‘a little’ coded as ‘Weak – medium Support’; and ‘no need’/ ‘not at all’ coded as No support. The other categories of Don’t know and Other remain the same.

The chart below draws on the data collated for this analysis (Appendix Table 2) showing the distribution (%) of responses within participant groups across the 6 proposals (questions) included.

Figure. 3



What can this analysis indicate about support or lack of support for an LRC?

The chart shows that the majority (over 50%) of participants in all 3 groups have some – strong support for the proposals in these questions and the proportions of responses showing strong support is above 50% for all three groups. Among the Sanctuary Seeker participants, the support appears strongest, with 74% giving responses that indicate strong support. Whilst the Statutory and VFSO responses are also showing majority support, the distribution of responses is slightly more equivocal between Strong support and weak – medium support, than with the Sanctuary Seekers.

The proportion of responses within surveys that indicate no support are small for all three groups, although – as this report will unpack – lack of support for distinct proposals need to be heard and understood. For example, there are particular proposed activities (questions) that attracted answers indicating lack of support or more ‘don’t know’ responses both across surveys and among particular groups of respondents. Finally, the Free Text Responses (FTR), not included in the analysis here, will help to flesh out or give understanding of the patterns and these and other factors will be considered in subsequent sections. The responses indicating strong support, equally need further unpacking and understanding.

Although this analysis is only based on responses to the closed-option answers to 6 of the 8/9 questions asked and has involved collapsing answer categories together to produce a comparable range of answer options, it offers the reader a sense of the overall picture and pattern of support/ no support. To follow on from the discussion of response rates, we can say that this analysis indicates there was positivity about what an LRC aspires to do and be.

Other data from the surveys can be drawn on, however, to corroborate or test the picture presented above. Statutory participants were asked more directly, **‘Would your organisation be supportive of an LRC?’** The distribution of responses to this question were 9/14 (64.3%) responding that ‘Yes’, they would be supportive, 3 (21.4%) ‘Don’t know’ and 2 (14.3%) ‘Other’. It can be mooted that, coming towards the end of the survey and being a more summative, wrapping-up, question, it may be a better indication of overall views of these statutory participants. To the multiple proposals included in the analysis above, the percentage of weak – strong (any support) answers given by statutory participants was 92%, No support 5%, Don’t know 2%, and Other 1%. To this summative question there were zero ‘no’ responses given but arguably some of the weaker support has translated to greater uncertainty – don’t know/ other responses. Whether similar changes might have been seen had this identical direct question been asked of the other participant groups, is possible, but unknown. Free Text Responses (FTR) offered by Statutory respondents here begin to flesh out views and hint at issues that will be explored further in the second part of this section.

‘Yes if it had a mandate to act as a coordinating voice’

‘I know that LCC are supportive of the idea but I don’t have the authority to speak for my whole organisation across the County’

These FTR are helpful to interpret how the statutory sector regards the proposal for an LRC and how it may respond to an LRC if it goes ahead. Deferring to the achievement of a broader mandate to act as a coordinating voice, this suggests that it is important that an LRC has broad majority support

from all groups that could be impacted and no *one* group's support should override dissent or concern among others. Further to this, it could also be suggesting that views of Sanctuary Seekers and/ or the VFSO sector should be given more weight in deciding if an LRC is supported as these are groups among whom an LRC proposes to offer a *coordinating* role. The second FTR substantiates the idea that VFSO and Sanctuary Seekers' views should be given more weight in that there appears to be awareness of support from Lancashire County Council (LCC) as an institutional view. This may have affected individual respondents' capacity to voice concerns/ dissent, but also gives a broad answer from a key statutory organisation in the County, and statutory agencies and organisations across the County may follow this lead.

This section has looked at the data in different ways to offer a broad-brush impression of whether there is support for an LRC. Having looked at the data in different ways, it is possible to say that the research indicates there is strong support from the 3 groups for LRC's proposals, for what LRC aspires to be and do. The LRC Acting Board can take this as, at least, a green light to continue its journey of preparation and consultation *in light of the more detailed findings* that the authors now turn to.

4.2 Organising the data and/ or mapping out an LRC organisation: Introducing the more detailed findings

What follows now up to section 4.5 are the more detailed findings of the Scoping review. *They* flesh out and define what the purpose, priorities and working model of an LRC might be, as was the overarching aim of the research. Sections 4.3 – 4.6 present findings under 4 headings: *Activities; Structure; Values; and Conceptual Status*. These different section headings are ways in which the Core research team have categorised the findings that were specifically sought about what the LRC aspires to do and be, but also identify, distinctly, findings that emerged through more cross-sectional interpretive analysis. The sections *Activities, Structure, and Values* represent topics on which the Core research team were requested to gather data and the section *Conceptual status* emerged as an important additional topic.

These headings are, on the one hand, ways of organising and presenting the findings for the report into meaningful distinct sections, but it is also suggested that they could potentially support the LRC Acting board to ‘map out’ clearly the organisation’s scope, commitments and working operation: a basic working model.

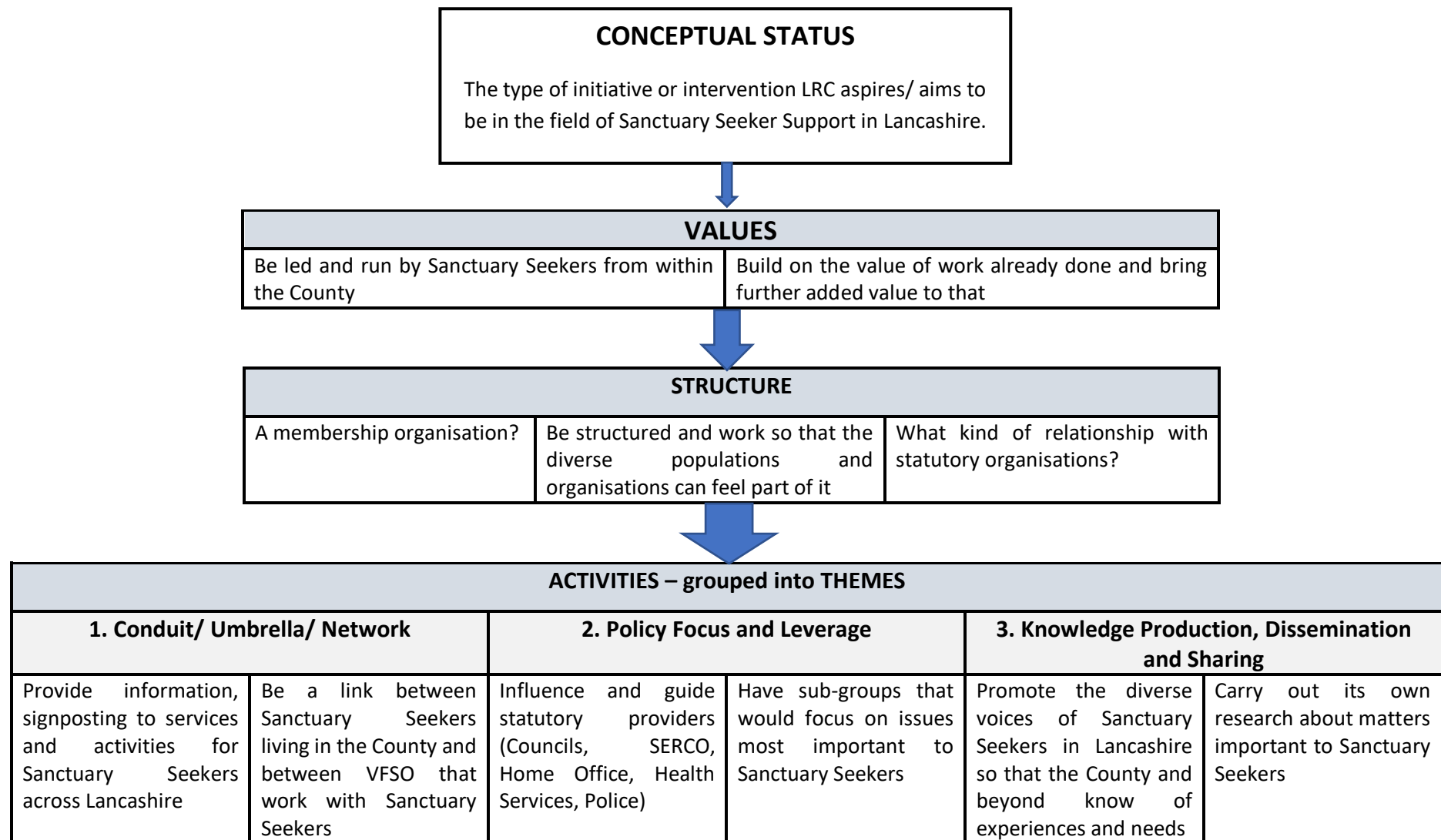
The diagram on the following page offers a visual representation both of how the data reporting is organised between headings and a potential ‘map’ of the LRC’s working model. Important to note is that proposals and questions that this research sought views on have been distributed between 3 headings: *Activities, Structure and Values* and that those categorised as *Activities* have been grouped under 3 themes identified by the Core Research team. Those themes are: *Conduit/ Umbrella/ Network; Policy Focus and Leverage, Knowledge Production, and Dissemination and Sharing*.

It can be seen from the diagram that *Conceptual status* is conveyed as a key element in the organisation, affecting all the other elements but also that *Values and Conceptual status* have a 2-way relationship, whereby thinking and data on values can particularly inform decisions about *Conceptual status* and vice versa.

The headings are addressed in reverse order to the flow suggested in the diagram, starting with *Activities* in section 4.3. as this order gives the reader many detailed findings that can show why *Conceptual Status* considerations are important.

This report will reproduce this diagram in parts over the following sections, identifying potential additional elements that could be considered, according to the data.

Figure 4: A visual representation both of how the data reporting is arranged and a potential ‘map’ of the LRC organisational elements



4.3 Activities – (Grouped into three themes)

This section reports on activities findings under 3 theme headings: Conduit/ Umbrella/ Network; Policy Focus and Leverage; and Knowledge Production, Dissemination and Sharing.

4.3.1 Theme 1: Conduit/ Umbrella/ Network

This Activity theme relates to LRC as an overarching county-wide organisation, both offering a central depository and source of information, and supporting existing and new networks of individuals and organisations in the county. The authors draw here on data gathered in the surveys to Question 1 and 4 that sought views on the proposal that an LRC would:

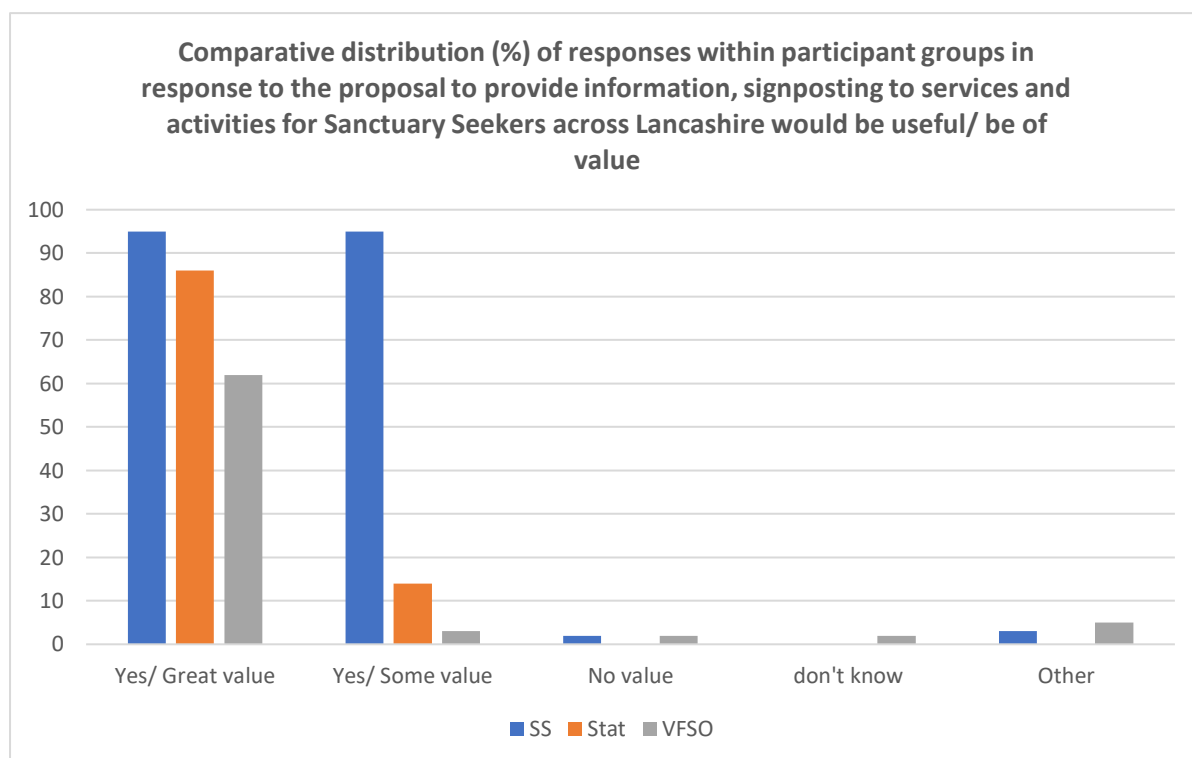
- *Provide Information/ Signposting*
- *Facilitate links, contact and cooperation between individuals and organisations*

The authors will present analysis of the data gathered on each proposed activity, issues and questions arising from the data and then identify key points and priority issues under the broader theme/ category of work.

Activity 1: Provide information, signposting to services and activities for Sanctuary Seekers across Lancashire

The cross-question analysis (Figure 1) demonstrated that this was one of three activities that garnered the most ‘strongly supported’ responses, equal to the proposal that an LRC *Be led and run by Sanctuary Seekers*, second only to the proposal that an LRC *Carry out and Share Research*. This support is demonstrated below. Note that as Sanctuary Seekers were given ‘Yes’/ ‘No’ answer options appropriate to how the question was worded for that survey, the ‘yes’ results appear twice with the VFSO/ Statutory responses which could identify ‘Great value’ or ‘Some value’.

Figure 5.



Aggregating ‘Great’ and ‘Some value’ responses together and comparing across the 3 survey results, demonstrates clear support for the proposal to *Provide information and Signposting* in all 3 groups of respondents: 94.8% Sanctuary Seeker respondents, 100% Statutory respondents and 90.4% VFSO respondents. There were a broader range of selected answers from Sanctuary Seekers and VFSO respondents; ‘No’ and ‘no value’ was selected by 1 respondent in each. VFSO respondents also chose ‘Don’t know’ (1) and both VFSO and Sanctuary Seeker respondents chose ‘other’ (2 respondents in each group). This proposal is strongly supported by all participant groups, with a broader range of views from a Sanctuary Seekers and VFSO participants. The FTR offered sheds more light both on the differing opinions. There were 4 FTR from Sanctuary Seekers, 2 FTR from the Statutory survey, 11 from the VFSO survey. These strongly complement the picture above, affirming its validity.

Sanctuary Seekers’ FTR (4)

- 2 out of the 4 FTR from Sanctuary Seekers state that ‘[more] intensive English lessons’ are needed, and one elaborates that it is necessary for Refugees ‘*to be able to speak to the indigenous people of the region*’, pointing to a lack of opportunity for integration (including contact, communication and involvement) with the local community.

- 1 FTR simply reiterates support: 'it sounds great'.
- 1 response suggests, (paraphrased), that each refugee could insert their CV and then their career direction is determined, suggesting a job-skill matching service element that could be included in the LRC.

Statutory Sector participants FTR (2)

- The two answers convey that information is unclear, and its availability and consistency in different places is unreliable.
- One answer conveys that this lack of information is a barrier to settling in.
- Both FTR convey a sense of struggle when interacting with current aid, and indicate hope in a new system.
- Both answers convey that there will be benefits both for ASR and for statutory staff.

VFSO participants FTR (11)

- A large number of free text responses, potentially reflecting the significance of the proposal.
- General hope for an LRC that provides information and signposting, but some display concerns: 3/11 are simply positive, 3/11 are cautious and 1 rejects its need.
- Of the cautious responses, the concern is possible duplication of signposting and information- three responses mention 'City of Sanctuary' and its partners/umbrella as an existing source. However, 1 of the FTR adds that it may be 'very useful', acknowledging that not all of Lancashire is within a City of Sanctuary. 1 response following selection of 'no value' as a closed response says that this is already provided by their organisation through a particular initiative.
- Of the positive responses, there is mention of: signposting connecting service users with provider; benefits of a central location for information; request for more activities to be included.
- 1 response questions the wording of the question and another states that no ASR have come to their organisation to date, indicating the significance of being known by and to other organisations.

Priorities for LRC Acting Board regarding the proposal to *Provide information and signposting*

The relevant part of the findings/ organisation map is reproduced below, highlighting which of the theme activities is being addressed and identifying priorities for the LRC Acting Board.

Figure 6. Priorities for LRC Acting Board regarding proposal to Provide Information and Signposting

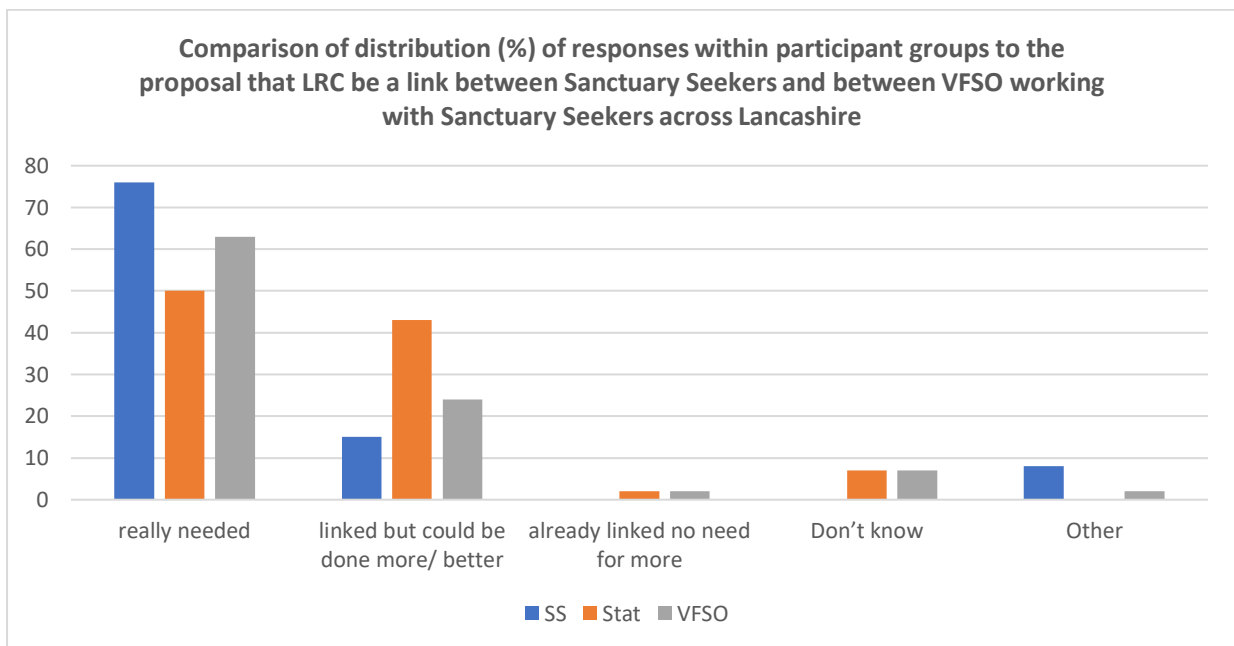
Theme	Conduit/ Umbrella/ Network	
Activity	Provide information, signposting to services and activities for Sanctuary Seekers across Lancashire	Be a link between Sanctuary Seekers living in the County and between VFSO that work with Sanctuary Seekers
Priorities for LRC Acting Board regarding proposal	<p>Opportunities: A valuable and useful activity to develop for reasons of being a central information source, consistent information across Lancashire, to ease the labours of finding information (both Sanctuary Seekers, VFSO and statutory staff), connect service users with providers, to be known as a service provider.</p> <p>Challenges: 1. Duplication of and relationships with existing signposting umbrella organisations and signposting initiatives of single organisations. 2. Differentiated benefit? This may be of more benefit to some areas of Lancashire than others: differentiated approach may be needed?</p> <p>Additional issues: Clarity of aim: does the fact that Sanctuary Seeker FTR identify additional activities in response to this proposal suggest misinterpretation of the question (LRC as a service provider?) or merely additional activities that are wanted and would be known about if this signposting and information provision was available. If misinterpretation, have other participants also interpreted this as saying LRC will be a service provider and this was the place to express needs?</p>	

Theme 1: Conduit/ Umbrella/ Network

Activity 2: Proposal that an LRC could be a link between Sanctuary Seekers and VFSO in Lancashire.

Table 2 demonstrated that this proposal ranked moderate support, but significantly attracted the highest proportion of ‘don’t know’ responses, equal to *Influence and Guide Statutory providers*. The chart below shows that most respondent groups indicated that this activity is ‘really needed’ or ‘could be done better’ by current organisations.

Figure 7.



Sanctuary Seekers’ and VFSO responses show a strong indication that ‘this is really needed’, whilst Statutory responses are more evenly distributed between ‘needed’ and ‘needs improvement’. There is also a significant number of ‘don’t know’ responses, perhaps from a lack of public knowledge for this information. When support for the proposal is aggregated (similar), the distribution of responses is similar across the 3 groups: 92% (Sanctuary Seekers), 93% (Statutory responses) and 85.7% (VFSO). The data clearly indicates that the LRC must *Facilitate Links, Contact and Cooperation between individuals and organisations*, but the uncertainty about what this would look like for participants requires further analysis. The FTR provided (2 Sanctuary Seekers, 3 Statutory, 4 VFSO) complement the indications above, and are presented below.

Sanctuary Seeker FTR (4)

- *'I am not sure'*, stated one participant. It may be that further clarification of what this proposal means is required, or that they are unaware of the current services available to them.
- *'Refugees need a lot of things'*, a statement both requesting clarification, but also reflecting a general deficit of services available.
- A lack of FTR either indicates that closed responses were adequate for the participants, or that further information was required for more sufficient responses.

Statutory FTR (3)

- 1 FTR notes that their local organisation is 'outstanding' in this regard, 'but could benefit ... by support from a wider Lancashire wide network of similar providers and advice givers'.
- 1 FTR comments on the differences between Asylum Seekers and Refugees in terms of support and funding streams, potentially highlighting that 'a link between' is not as easy when looking at the detail of different administrative systems and challenges when trying to incorporate Asylum Seekers in particular, as SERCO can act as a gatekeeper/ barrier.
- 1 FTR comments that a national voice to support is required.

VFSO FTR (4)

- 1 FTR identifies that in 2017/18 there were *'two major Sanctuary conferences of all the relevant agencies across Lancashire. The networks established through these events continue to exist. Another one day conference event perhaps?'* This indicates the value of those links as a Lancashire-wide opportunity. An opportunity for formal/ informal links to be made or renewed may be helpful (whether or not in relation to an LRC).
- 1 FTR notes that even after volunteering for 2+ years, they are unaware of organisations outside of that area unless seeking them out to help a particular Asylum Seeker or Refugee. This person further notes that it is vital to be linked given that AS often move onto other areas if given leave to remain. Significant effort is required to find information outside of an area and these individuals would likely not have benefited from the Sanctuary conference networking opportunities.
- 1 FTR identifies that in their opinion this is already done by Cities of Sanctuary and questions *'how much better if at all'* it would be under an LRC. This points to issues of possible duplication between this proposal of an LRC and what is already done.

- The final FTR notes that not all organisations supply the same services (or information pointing to others), suggesting luck as a factor in finding necessary aid. As they are ‘delighted to work with anyone’, they would welcome the link.

Priorities for LRC Acting Board regarding the proposal to *Be a link between Sanctuary Seekers living in the County and between VFSO that work with Sanctuary Seekers*

Figure 8.

Theme	Conduit/ Umbrella/ Network	
Activity	Provide information, signposting to services and activities for Sanctuary Seekers across Lancashire	Provide connection between between Sanctuary Seekers living in the County and between VFSO that work with Sanctuary Seekers
Priorities for LRC Acting Board regarding proposal		<p>Opportunities: Strong support for activities available: facilitating support for single organisations from wider Lancashire network; ease labours of finding/making links with organisations in other areas when needed to support Sanctuary Seekers who move (vitality needed with Asylum Seekers get leave to remain and have to move on); to enable recourse to more organisations/ be signposted more widely, where it can currently depend on personal/chance links.</p> <p>Challenges: Minority caution identifies important issues: 1. Duplication with City of Sanctuary as umbrella/ networking group: what could an LRC add to what they do? 2. Potential need to develop relationships with SERCO/ Home Office/ Resettlement Case workers as ‘gatekeepers’, as part of this activity to be able to link Asylum Seekers and Refugees currently within distinct administrative, funding and support systems.</p> <p>Additional issues: 3. Lancashire Sanctuary Conferences (2017/18) mentioned as having enabled networks to develop, that still exist today. It is questioned whether another/ regular event like this might be enough to fulfil this proposed activity.</p>

Theme 1 Priorities: Conduit/ Umbrella/ Network

To conclude reporting on the two activities within this theme, the following table identifies overlapping and distinct priorities for this theme.

Figure 9.

Theme	Conduit/ Umbrella/ Network	
Activities	Provide information, signposting to services and activities for Sanctuary Seekers across Lancashire	Be a link between Sanctuary Seekers living in the County and between VFSSO that work with Sanctuary Seekers
Theme priorities for the LRC Acting Board	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The theme as a whole is supported, providing stronger information/ signposting than simply providing connections. 2. Further distinction required between these 2 activities. Signposting could involve developing a database/search facility, provided by an LRC. Would this offer a symbolic link, as host? How could links be further supported by LRC to fulfil the second activity in this theme? 3. How would links be promoted between Sanctuary Seekers as individuals, or would this be done on a group basis, to fulfil the second activity in this theme? 4. DUPLICATION of and relationships with existing signposting services and umbrella/ networking organisations. Care needs to be taken to fulfil value commitment to 'build on and add value to' existing services/ activities. 5. CLARITY of how these activities differ and what direct services an LRC might provide for Sanctuary Seekers, if any. 	

4.3.2 Theme 2: Policy Focus and Leverage

Data in this section regards the proposed Policy Focus and Leverage theme and function of an LRC; relating to the LRC proposing to benefit Sanctuary Seekers by leading on a range of county-relevant activities in relation to statutory policies and their consequences. It draws on responses to Question 3 and 5 in the survey that sought views on the LRC's proposals to:

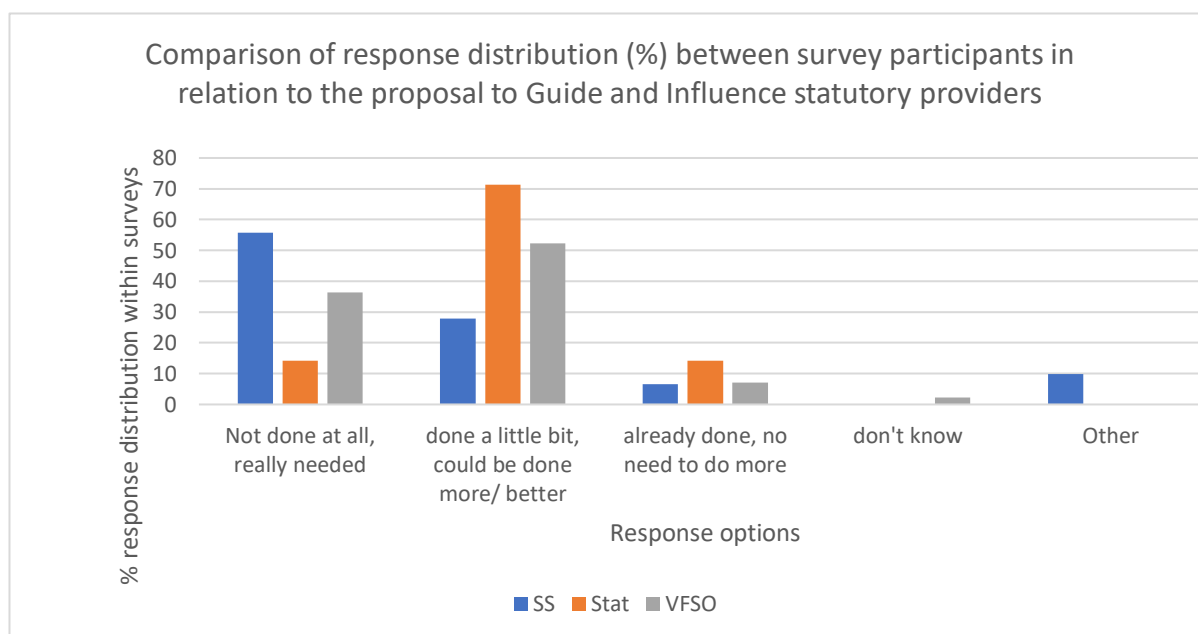
- *Influence and guide Statutory providers*
- *Convene and lead on focused working groups*

The authors will present analysis of the data gathered on each proposed activity, issues and questions arising from the data and then identify key points and priority issues under the broader theme/ category of work.

Activity 1: Influence and guide statutory providers by, for example, sharing examples of Sanctuary Seekers' experience, making representations to key people, offering guidance, training to those statutory providers on the experiences, challenges, rights and needs of Sanctuary Seekers.

Table 2 (Appendix) demonstrates this as one of the less supported activities, and yet it ranked highly amongst weaker/medium support. This indicates a less urgent focus. Whilst it secures 55.7% of Sanctuary Seekers' responses for 'not done at all, really needed', the other respondent groups had a far higher 'done a little bit, could be done better' distribution.

Figure 10.



This indicates that Sanctuary Seeker respondents are either unaware of or feel disappointed in work currently done in this area, in comparison to the Statutory and VFSO respondents. However, Statutory and VFSO responses are still mixed in satisfaction. Furthermore, the prevalence of ‘other’ responses indicates that the closed responses available did not adequately cover the mix of feelings amongst Sanctuary Seeker respondents. FTR on this activity unpacks these patterns.

Sanctuary Seekers FTR

- 1 FTR followed up selection of ‘this is done a little bit but could be done better’ with, *‘that’s good and useful’*, a simple reiteration of support.

Statutory FTR

- 1 FTR indicated concern that this may be done without appreciation of how statutory roles and systems work. Another FTR commented that having an ‘Asylum Seeker Council’ (perhaps meaning LRC) representative on a group within this statutory department would be useful.
- The third FTR emphasised the necessity of such activity *‘because currently SERCO and sometimes Home Office reps walk all over processes like they’re optional’*, an especially troubling comment. These FTRs clearly indicate that connections to the statutory sector must be two-way, with a level of communication present that helps understand limitations on both sides.

VFSO FTR

- 3 FTR reiterated the value of this activity
- 1 questioned how well it was done elsewhere, highlighting that *'joint leverage'* could be valuable: *'it is something outside organisations' control'*. Joint action with organisations working together was repeated in another FTR, which questioned what influence an LRC would have on the Home Office, and if a joint approach might help.
- 1 FTR suggested that the idea had some legitimacy: *'certain bodies need to be educated, eg. Home Office, little insight of real life experience and this needs tackling'*.
- 1 FTR pointed out that City of Sanctuary had been doing this for more than 5 years through Lancashire branches but that it could be done more effectively with more resources/staff.

Priorities for LRC Acting Board regarding the proposal to *Influence and guide statutory providers*

Figure 11.

Theme	2. Policy Focus and Leverage	
Activities	Influence and guide statutory providers (Councils, SERCO, Home Office, Health Services, Police)	Have sub-groups that would focus on issues most important to Sanctuary Seekers
Priorities for the LRC Acting Board in relation to activity	<p>Opportunities: This activity indicated limited support via the numerical data, but FTR indicates stronger support with hesitance about the possibility to improve. Improvement could be brought about through joint leverage and wider education on issues towards organisations such as the Home Office. 6/9 FTR mentioned concerns about this.</p> <p>Challenges:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can an LRC have an influence? How realistic is this aspiration? 2. Statutory participants are concerned about lack of communication (i.e. needs to be two-way), not only aiming to guide/influence but also listen to how things are, as county level/ district authority staff are themselves dealing with the consequences of statutory policies. 3. Duplication of existing work by City of Sanctuary organisations in this area, with limited funds and resources. 	

	<p>Additional issues</p> <p>1. As the data suggests that Sanctuary Seekers may not be aware of work done in this area, how can an LRC address involvement/awareness?</p>	
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Theme 2: Policy Focus and Leverage

Activity 2: To convene and lead on focused working groups

This proposal was put slightly differently to respondents in the survey, asking participants to suggest the most important topics rather than subgroups. Choices available in the survey included: Health, Education, English language learning, Employment, Family Reunion, Don't know, Other. The following table demonstrates the most popular of these options, alongside other suggestions from discussion.

Figure 12. Selections and suggestions for focused working group topics

Sanctuary Seekers	Statutory respondents	VFSO respondents
English language learning Health Family reunion Education Employment Other	English language learning Health Employment Education Family Reunion Other Don't know	English language learning Health and Education Employment Family reunion Other Don't know
Additional topics suggested:		
Mental health Trauma NRPF Housing Peer support Integration mentoring: <i>'Mentor provides technical services that help refugees settle down'</i> Requirements of the job market/ how to prepare for it: <i>'.. the requirements of the market to better prepare oneself for the requirements of the job market'</i>	Laws, legal processes Women's and children's rights Norms of support for UK residents	Helping people with NRPF HO Case work failures Trauma Housing Suitable accommodation Culture of compassion/ hostility Critique of Government There are different issues in the life of an Asylum seeker – at some point housing, finances ESOL problems: suitability and number of hours for ASR Conversation courses Religious dietary support needs

As there were no other FTR commenting on, for example, the legitimacy of the sub-groups working on specific topics, we offer observations on the patterns identified and identify apparent priorities for this activity in the table below.

Figure 13 Priorities for the LRC Acting Board in relation to the proposal to have sub-groups that would focus on issues most important to Sanctuary Seekers

Theme	2. Policy Focus and Leverage	
Activities	Influence and guide statutory providers (Councils, SERCO, Home Office, Health Services, Police)	Have sub-groups that would focus on issues most important to Sanctuary Seekers
Priorities for the LRC Acting Board in relation to activity		<p>Opportunities: No participants questioned the legitimacy of this activity, (which would have been possible in the FTR space), indicating positive support. The two most popular options were English language and Health. Mental health and trauma are specifically identified in FTR and need to be prioritised within a Health focus. Education and Employment follow these two.</p> <p>Challenges: 1. CLARITY: from the suggested topics suggested by Sanctuary Seekers, the Core Research team is of the opinion that further clarity may be needed about this activity in terms of how this activity would include direct service provision. Again it is possible that the question was misinterpreted as requesting identification of ‘... the most important ... matters important to refugees’. What relationship this activity would have with service providers could be clarified.</p>

Theme 2 Priorities: Policy Focus and Leverage

Figure 14 Priorities for the LRC Acting Board in relation to Policy Focus and Leverage theme

Theme	2. Policy Focus and Leverage	
Activities	Influence and guide statutory providers (Councils, SERCO, Home Office, Health Services, Police)	Have sub-groups that would focus on issues most important to Sanctuary Seekers
Priorities for the LRC Acting Board in relation to activity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is support to develop this theme 2. Duplication of existing work by City of Sanctuary organisations, with limited funding and resources, needs to be considered. 3. Developing cooperative, constructive relationships with particularly local statutory providers/ organisations may be important (e.g. dealing with consequences of statutory frameworks) and to prevent defensive feelings about this theme. 4. Consider precedents for influencing statutory providers to ease facilitation, offer examples in any further consultation/ preparation. 	

4.3.3 Theme 3: Knowledge Production, Dissemination and Sharing

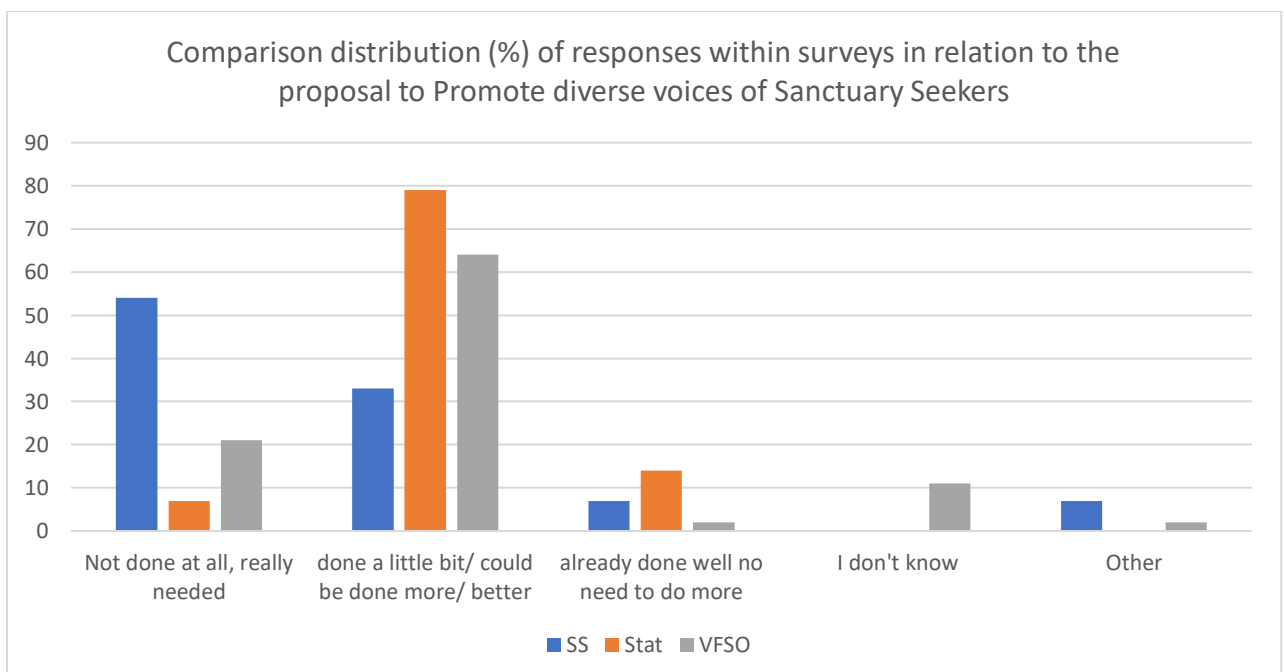
This section reports on data gathered regarding the proposed Knowledge Production and Understanding function of an LRC; relating to the LRC proposing to lead on county-relevant activities that produce, gather, share and communicate knowledge and insight that can benefit Sanctuary Seekers in Lancashire through greater understanding of their experience, needs, and benefit organisations currently working with Sanctuary Seekers. The authors report on responses gathered in the surveys to Question 2 and 6 that sought views on the proposal that an LRC would:

- *Promote diverse voices, experience and needs*
- *Carry out and share research*

Activity 1: Promote the diverse voices of Sanctuary Seekers in Lancashire so that the County and beyond (UK/ internationally) know that Sanctuary Seekers live in the County and what their experience and needs are

Table 2 (Appendix) indicates that this activity garnered the fewest ‘strong support’ responses, but ranked a clear first in ‘weaker/medium’ support. However, it also received a number of responses indicating a lack of support.

Figure 15



The chart shows a pattern of responses similar to the proposal to *Guide and Influence statutory providers*, namely that, again, the majority of responses from Sanctuary Seekers are that 'This is not done at all, really needed' and far exceeding the proportions of this response in the other two groups. Indeed, the distribution of responses among Statutory and VFSSO respondents is strongly that, rather, 'This is done a little bit, but could be done more/ better. Again there is more equivocation evident in the VFSSO responses, with all 'don't know' answers attributable to this group. It is noticeable too that there are a greater proportion of Statutory responses 'This is already done well and there is no need to do more' than 'Not done at all, this is really needed'.

Although the weight of overall responses are 'This is done a little bit but could be done more/ better', when any – strong need responses are aggregated, very comparable proportions of respondents across the 3 groups gave responses that can indicate some – strong support for the proposal that an LRC *Promote diverse voices, experience and needs*: 87% Sanctuary Seekers respondents, 86% Statutory respondents and 85% VFSSO respondents. Overall, however, it is possible to suggest that Sanctuary Seekers have a perception that this isn't done, it is really needed, possibly not feeling the effect of work already done in this area where their needs are heard or demands met. Perhaps this indicates that the majority of these Sanctuary Seekers do not feel heard and only a minority feel it is done well. Both Statutory and VFSSO respondents convey that 'it is done a little but could be done better', perhaps affirming the Sanctuary Seeker picture that not enough is done in this regard.

Consideration of the Free Text responses can inform understanding of thinking about this proposal.

Fleshing out what the numbers can tell us

There were 3 FTR from Sanctuary Seeker respondents, 2 from Statutory respondents and 7 from VFSSO respondents.

Sanctuary Seeker FTR

- 1 FTR commented 'It needs to be organised' which, depending on where emphasis is placed, can simply reiterate the *need* for this and/ or point to a feeling that if it is already done a little, it is not organised enough. It could also point to a suggestion that events that promote the voices of Sanctuary Seekers are desired, or simply that there is a perception that there is a not clear way in which this is currently happening. Potentially too this response points to perception of a lack of mechanism(s), currently, for Sanctuary Seekers to express their needs.

- 1 FTR noted ‘Their needs for the net’, implying that virtual communication needs to be facilitated.
- The third FTR stated ‘prepare lists defining the interest and the specialisations of the refugees, such as: teacher, actor in the cinema, farmer, carpenter, fisherman, painter’. This could be a suggestion to further promote the experience, skills and capacities of Sanctuary Seekers.

Statutory FTR

- 1 FTR states: ‘At times it feels like people are just tick box exercises, people arrive without full information, at times honesty needs to be questioned’. The dehumanisation caused by bureaucratic systems may be alienating those who are already deeply struggling with deeper issues, making them feel as though organisations such as the IOM do not care about them.
- 1 FTR suggests ‘promoting diverse voices’, encouraging a more collective understanding of cultural beliefs and traditions, attempts to dispel myths, as well as emphasising the importance that those with language difficulties and legal matters need to be heard.

VFSO FTR

- 5 of the FTR comments noted (either generally or specifically) an awareness of good work in this area by VFSO and the County Council but that more could be done. 2 FTRs comment on good work in their area, one specifying through their organisation’s initiatives, but noting a lack of promotion by the Council that may lead to issues in other areas. This second FTR selected ‘no need to do more’.
- In regards to cross-county awareness, there are contrasting opinions. 1 FTR notes that people are already aware of asylum seekers in Lancashire, whilst another noted that an awareness of national voices, but a lack of county-specific perspectives, which they would consider valuable.
- 1 FTR notes that the LRC’s proposal that it be led and run by sanctuary Seekers would be empowering, but that ‘it is not an easy process’. This also suggests that ‘promoting voices’ can be perceived as not necessarily building capacity for VFSO asylum seekers to speak for themselves, rather needing to be spoken *for*.

Priorities for LRC Acting Board regarding the proposal to *Promote diverse voices of Sanctuary Seekers*

Figure 16 Priorities for Acting Board regarding proposal to promote the diverse voices of sanctuary seekers

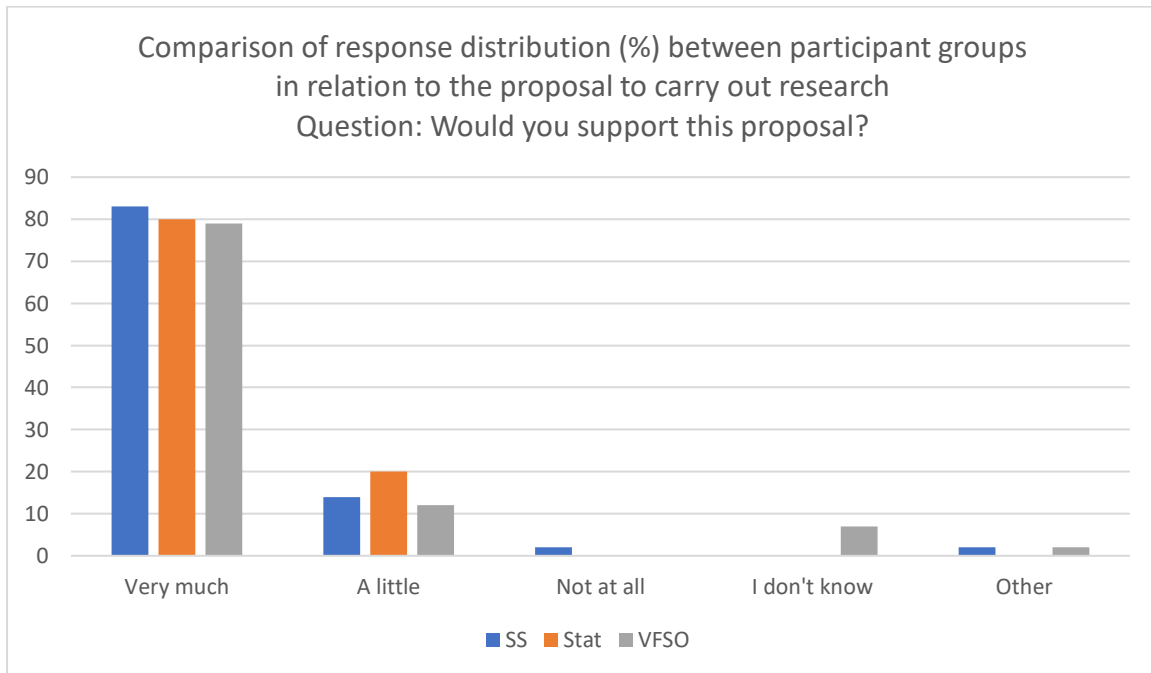
Theme	3. Knowledge Production, Dissemination and Sharing	
Activity	Promote the diverse voices of Sanctuary Seekers in Lancashire so that the County and beyond know of experiences and needs	Carry out its own research about matters important to Sanctuary Seekers
Priorities for the LRC Acting Board	<p>This proposal has reasonably strong support overall but it is most lacking in responses from Sanctuary Seekers. This activity is significant: to counter a tendency for people to be treated as ‘tick box exercises’; to encourage collective understanding of cultural beliefs, traditions, dispel myths; county-specific perspectives would be beneficial alongside national perspectives. That the one suggestion of a particular activity comes from a Sanctuary Seeker raises the question of whether this question was misinterpreted as asking <i>what</i> needs to be promoted rather than if promotion was a valuable activity.</p> <p>Caution:</p> <p>1.Duplication/ promotion: There is already good work happening in Lancashire and so this activity must maintain comprehensive knowledge of ongoing/one-off activities, promote these and identify gaps in activity – geographically and conceptually.</p> <p>2.Speaking for/ developing capacity to speak for themselves: how might this activity be combined with activities building capacity among Sanctuary Seekers?</p> <p>Additional issues:</p> <p>1.If this is going to be online promotion, does it need to be combined with issues of digital literacy/ digital exclusion?</p> <p>2.An activity suggested by a Sanctuary Seeker: to prepare lists defining professional specialisations of Sanctuary Seekers (e.g. carpenter, painter), to show diversity of abilities amongst Sanctuary Seekers.</p>	

Theme 3: Knowledge Production, Dissemination and Sharing

Activity 2: To carry out its own research about matters important to Sanctuary Seekers

Table 2 (Index) demonstrates that this attracted the most strong support, and this is supported by the chart below.

Figure 17



Almost all respondents demonstrated overwhelmingly strong support for the LRC. Only one 'not at all' response and several 'I don't know', but otherwise almost identical responses across each of the groups. FTR responses, however, do not display universal support.

Sanctuary Seeker FTR

- 1 FTR states the importance of this work.
- The only 'not at all' response came with no explanation.
- 1 FTR reads 'it was completed', which may simply be relating to the questionnaire itself.

Statutory FTR

- 1 FTR notes support but cautions that they would 'not want to presume what is most important to people'.

VF SO FTR

- 3 of the 4 FTR express support for the proposed activity, emphasising the value of research to interpret real life experience, and for understanding amongst people not involved with Refugees/ Asylum Seekers, and that not enough is done.
- 1 FTR, having selected 'other', was strongly negative about research, stating: 'no I would not. Stop researching and just get on with it. Action is required and you can monitor the actions and adjust. Enough with the research and actually start DOING SOMETHING'. This response demonstrates an acute sense of urgency around practical responses. The suggestion of action/ monitoring points suggests that Action Research could be of value, and that

documenting initiatives and their success may be an effective measure to help and understand in a practical and efficient manner.

- 1 FTR supports the proposal with a caveat, emphasising the importance of ethnographic and qualitative participation, expressing a value statement on *types of* research that an LRC should do.

Priorities for LRC Acting Board regarding the proposal to *Carry out its own research about matters important to Sanctuary Seekers*

Figure 18.

Theme	3. Knowledge Production, Dissemination and Sharing	
Activity	Promote the diverse voices of Sanctuary Seekers in Lancashire so that the County and beyond know of experiences and needs	Carry out its own research about matters important to Sanctuary Seekers
Priorities for the LRC Acting Board		<p>Opportunities: This activity has extremely strong support across the participant groups, but also demonstrates minority notes of caution.</p> <p>Challenges: 1. A need for the identification of what matters are important to Sanctuary Seekers for research. This could potentially overlap with the topics selected for Focused Working Groups. 2. This activity would need to consider its methodology (qualitative/ quantitative), and whether each possible topic/ purpose would have available broad expertise to consider a range of methodologies. 3. Research versus Action? It was of strong concern to one participant that action was delayed by research and instead action needed to be accompanied by monitoring/adjusting. Action Research could be prioritised as it is included in the repertoire of knowledge/ skills of people working on this activity; resources are developed to support VFSO/ individuals to monitor and evaluate projects; and offering information about how research has been useful.</p> <p>Additional issues: None identified</p>

Theme 3 Priorities: Knowledge Production, Dissemination and Sharing

To conclude reporting on the two activities within this theme, the following table identifies overlapping and distinct priorities for this theme.

Figure 19 Priorities for the LRC Acting Board regarding the theme Knowledge Distribution, Dissemination and Sharing

Theme	3. Knowledge Production, Dissemination and Sharing	
Activity	Promote the diverse voices of Sanctuary Seekers in Lancashire so that the County and beyond know of experiences and needs	Carry out its own research about matters important to Sanctuary Seekers
Theme Priorities for the LRC Acting Board	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop this overall theme of work; capitalising on the extremely strong support for an LRC, carry out further research, looking at ways in which knowledge can be shared effectively between organisations and individuals. There is already work in the area of Promoting Voices but it is not shared, accessible or known about across the county. 2. CLARITY: There must be clarity on the aim to promote voices so as not to neglect the potential need for Sanctuary Seekers to express needs locally (i.e. Internet access) that aren't necessarily about a wider audience/ changing perceptions. 3. Mechanisms for finding out what matters to Sanctuary Seekers for research need to be thought about 4. The potential for capacity building must be considered; if the LRC is to be organised by Sanctuary Seekers, running their own research, etc, they must be trained- this now has a template for Research training with the CBRCB project (see Report 2). 5. A range of research skills need to be available to an LRC to consider how research can support action on the ground (action research/ monitoring and evaluation skills) and to tailor methodology to research purpose/ audience whilst prioritising consideration of ethical issues and GDPR. 	

4.4 Values

The previous section has focused on findings on 6 activities distributed across 3 themes identified to not only organise the data but support organisational mapping and planning.

This section turns to another element important to the organisation plan, Values and reports on data sought in relation to this element. By Values is meant things, commitments, that matter or are of importance to the LRC rather than distinct activities. Their relationship with activities is that they inform *how* those things are done, potentially helping to decide what is done/ not done and setting priorities. The overall value-commitment of the LRC is that its work benefit Sanctuary Seekers and organisations supporting Sanctuary Seekers, however this overall value is broken down into 2 aspirations for values commitments for how those values could be demonstrated. The research sought views on these and will report on them here.

The 2 values-aspirations are shown in the table below and are addressed in turn in the sections that follow.

VALUES	
Be led and run by Sanctuary Seekers from within the County	Build on the value of work already done and bring further added value to that

4.4.1 Values aspiration 1: Be led and run by Sanctuary Seekers from within the county, some of whom also work with established organisations

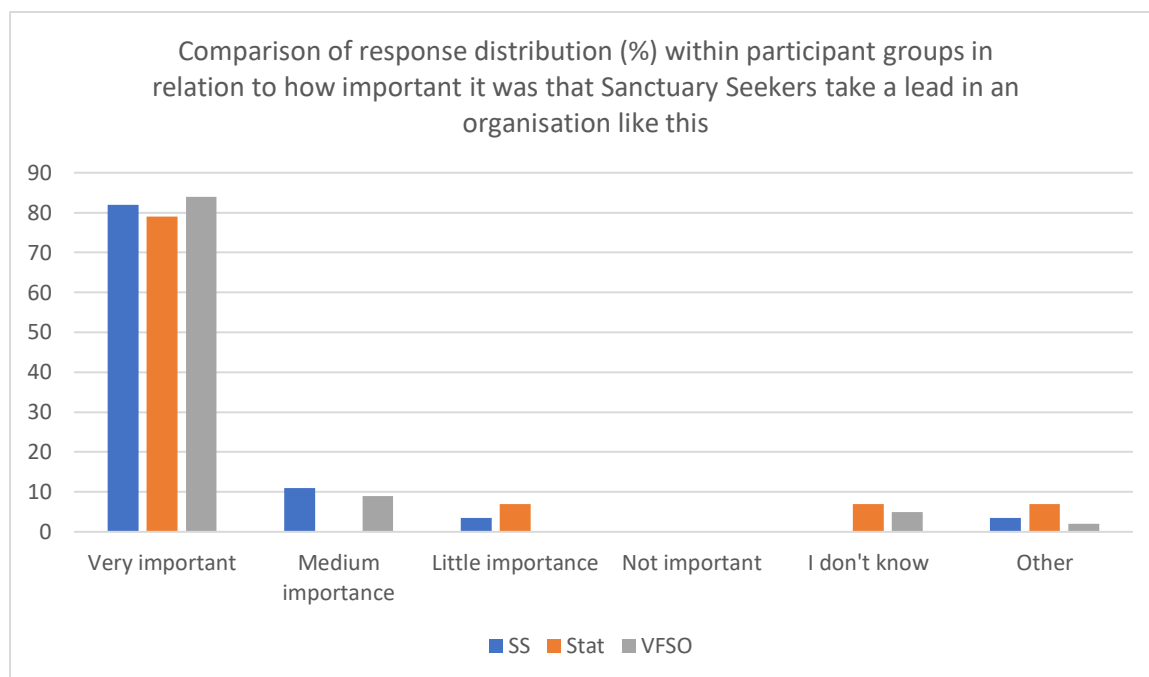
This proposal was put to survey participants, and they were asked:

How important, in your view, is it that Sanctuary Seekers take a lead in an organisation like this?

The Table showing general patterns of support for different proposals across the 3 groups (Table 2) shows that this was a proposal that, relative to others, attracted high levels of strong support and was the only proposal that did not gain any responses that indicated no support. Here we look at the responses in more detail with the response range that the question itself offered: very important, Medium importance, Little importance, Not important, I don't know and Other.

The chart below presents a comparative view of the distribution of responses between groups.

Figure 20



This chart attests to the strong support seen in the General Support table. It shows that it was considered ‘very important’ that Sanctuary Seekers take a lead in an organisation like this. When the Very important and medium importance responses are aggregated, it shows that 93% of Sanctuary Seeker respondents, 79% of Statutory respondents and 93% of VFSSO respondents considered it as being from medium – very important. The proportion of statutory respondents stands out in this comparison, notwithstanding the numbers are very low. Of interest is that the only groups to select ‘little importance’ was Sanctuary Seeker respondents themselves (2 responses) and Statutory respondents (1 response). There were ‘Don’t know’ responses from Statutory and VFSSO respondents and a small number of ‘Other’ responses from all 3 groups.

Looking at the Free text responses to this answer, can help to validate and understand responses.

Fleshing out what the numbers can tell us

There were 4 FTR from Sanctuary Seekers, 3 from Statutory respondents and 6 from VFSSO respondents.

Sanctuary Seeker FTR

- 1 FTR commented that it was very important for the personal experience Sanctuary Seekers would bring but with a caveat: *'But they should have the good experience to sort out any problem'*. This latter feeling was echoed in another FTR following selection of 'little importance' that stated: *'Such matters need a staff that has a language and understands the requirements of the current situation'*. Experience, but also language and understanding is identified as very important.
- Noticeable was that the other selection of 'little importance', so observable in the comparative view above, was not followed up by a FTR
- 1 FTR was the totality of this respondent's answer, having not selected one of the closed option answers, and it conveys on the one hand a lack of trust in this proposal, like an empty promise, but on the other hand could be read as seeing this as an opportunity for this proposal of the LRC to change things. They wrote: *'We've been talked over and over again, but to no avail, none of the promises have been made, and we haven't seen any interest'*.
- Another FTR suggests that the proposal *'will help Lancashire county Council to know what we thinking'* and solve problems. This proposal is interpreted as an opportunity to speak for selves authoritatively. That LCC is identified as the audience potentially reflects that this respondent is part of the Resettlement Programme in which LCC is seen as having a central role.
- 3 out of the 4 FTR use 'we' repetitively suggesting a sense of common interests. This may reflect a genuine belief that there is solidarity across different groups, but also possibly predominance of 1 ethno-linguistic group in the research (Arabic speakers) plus a predominance of one route of arrival (Resettlement).

Statutory FTR

- The 'little importance' selection is not followed up by a FTR. Potentially this is not an easy popular view to express.
- All 3 FTR sound caution or identify caveats, even when 2 of these FTR followed selections of 'Very important'. These caveats were that: of equal importance is that people who lead have the right skills; leads will need to understand the limitations and restrictions upon local authorities; and that local understanding and connections are important.
- Here it would appear that there may be a concern about demands/ criticisms of local authority that might come from an LRC like a unionised workforce

VFSO FTR

- 3 FTR simply reiterate its importance/ value on the grounds of first hand experience, understanding of needs and stating that it was ‘crucial’ to the LRC’s success
- 2 FTR present caveats to its efficacy: ‘as long as it is properly resourced’ and ‘I think guidance or specific terms of reference would be needed to help such leaders be focused and most effective, e.g. understanding statutory frameworks for school admissions or access to healthcare’
- 1 FTR, following a selection of ‘very important’, wrote a more discursive comment, drawing attention to challenges involved relating to diverse marginalised ethnolinguistic groups, scattered geography of Lancashire and ‘increasing thin and wide dispersal of Sanctuary Seekers makes it more difficult’. These are concerns potentially about dominance, representation and practical concerns also and importantly identify the potential role of capacity building over time.

Priorities for the LRC Acting Board in relation to the values aspiration that the LRC be led and run by Sanctuary Seekers from within the County

Having traced patterns in the data, the following table identifies priorities for the LRC Acting Board in relation to this values aspiration.

Figure 21 Priorities for the LRC Acting Board in relation to proposal: be led and run by Sanctuary Seekers from within the County

Element	VALUES	
Aspiration	1.Be led and run by Sanctuary Seekers from within the County	3.Build on the value of work already done and bring further added value to that
Priorities for the LRC Acting Board in relation to this aspiration	Opportunities: There is very strong support for this LRC aspiration indicated by the numbers of answer selections but noticeably lower support among statutory participants. It is VFSO and Sanctuary Seeker participants who elaborate on the reasons why they have supported this aspiration: the value of first hand experience, ‘they’ve been there’ and therefore better placed to ‘fight’ for improvements, understand needs for gradual not ‘sharp’ integration, help Lancashire County to know what we’re thinking. The majority of FTR, however, were caveat/ conditions to supporting this aspiration, including from Sanctuary Seekers.	

	<p>Challenges:</p> <p>1. Suitability of staff for roles: 8 conditions were identified as being necessary for Sanctuary seekers to be able to lead/ run an LRC. They were: good experience, language, understanding, right skills, understandings of limitations and restrictions upon Local authorities, local understanding and connections, properly resourced, guidance/ terms of reference provided. The LRC Acting Board needs to consider whether there is this capacity among the Sanctuary Seeker population in Lancashire given its activity plans.</p> <p>2. Could there be capacity building commitment added to these values aspirations and opportunities to gain experience and knowledge throughout the organisation?</p> <p>3. lack of trust in this aspiration is expressed by a Sanctuary Seeker participant: the LRC need to be able to demonstrate at least a commitment to this aspiration (steps towards, time-scale)</p> <p>4. How can LRC ensure broad ethnolinguistic representation and from all over the County? Is there any resistance to solidarity under an LRC? Is there concern about domination of an ethnic group?</p> <p>4. there is a broader question of the extent to which the virtues/ weaknesses of an organisation of or an organisation for Sanctuary Seekers is as clear cut as this.</p>	
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4.4.2 Values aspiration 2: Build on the value of work already done and bring further added value to that

This values aspiration is about not being in competition with existing organisations, valuing work that is already done in the County and by individuals, and carrying out work that supports it.

Through the previous sections, there have been indications of support for and confidence in the potential of an LRC to do this. There have also been concerns expressed about duplication of existing work, particularly in relation to the theme *Conduit, Umbrella, Network*.

Here we report on data gathered that can indicate whether participants felt it could do this: make a positive difference to themselves or their work.

This was put to survey participants in questions that asked:

What difference, if any, could an LRC make to the work that you do? (Statutory/ VFSO surveys) or What difference, if any, could an LRC make to you? (Sanctuary Seekers)

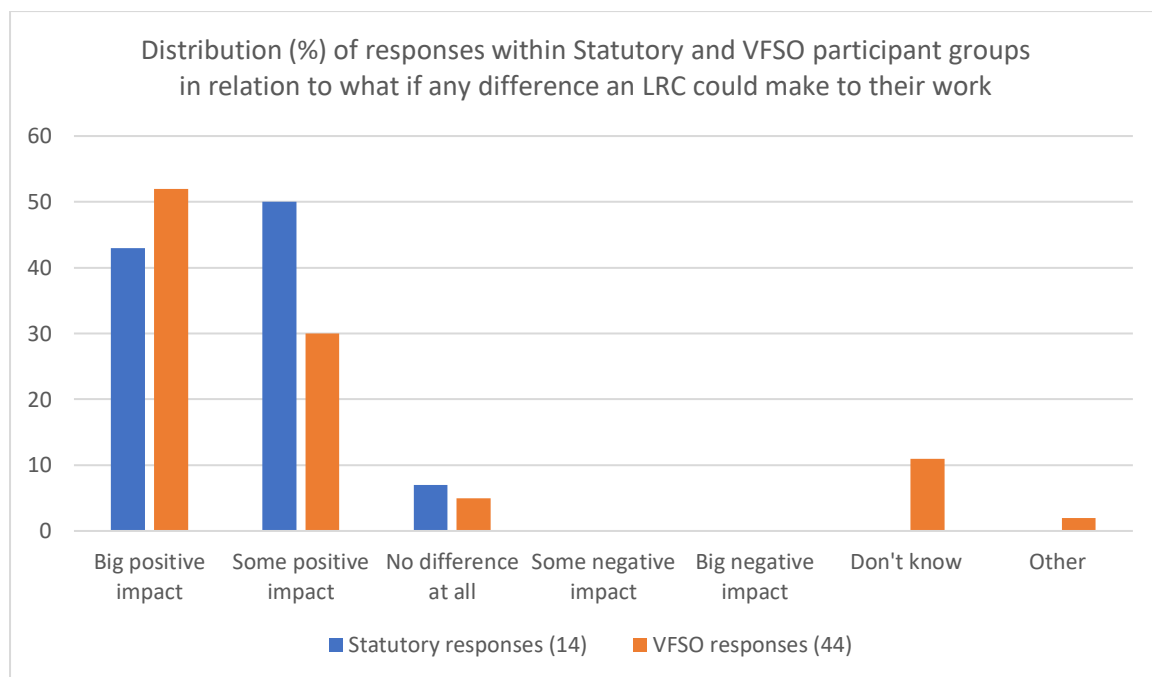
The Statutory and VFSO versions of this question offered the following range of answer options:

Big positive impact, Some positive impact, No difference at all, Some negative impact, Big positive impact, Don't know and Other. Findings from this answer are presented below.

What difference might an LRC make?

The chart below gives a comparative view of the distribution (%) of closed option responses to this Question within the Statutory and VFSO survey responses.

Figure 22



This chart suggests that, overall, there was more clarity among Statutory respondents that either an LRC could have a positive impact (some – big) (93%) or make no difference at all to their work (7%). Whereas, the VFSO responses are on the one hand greater in terms of ‘big impact’ (52%) but also distributed more widely between positive impact (some – big) (82%), No difference at all (5%), Don't know (11%) and Other (2%). There appears to be contrasting views within VFSO respondents, between confidence and uncertainty as to the difference an LRC could make to their work and this is exemplified by one VFSO respondent choosing 3 answers to this question: ‘some positive difference’, ‘no difference at all’ and ‘I don't know’.

The Sanctuary Seeker Survey only offered a Free Text Response option and there were 20 FTR offered out of a possible 58. 19 of these responses indicated that an LRC could make a positive difference with, either, explanations as to why this could be, or things that positive difference were conditional or dependent upon. 1 could be read either as positive or uncertain. Table X below summarises the Free Text Responses from all 3 surveys.

Figure 23 Summary of FTR from all 3 participant groups regarding difference or impact an LRC could make

Sanctuary Seekers (20 FTR)	Statutory (2 FTR)	VFSO (4 FTR)
<p>-X11 General positive comments about difference LRC could make ('easier', 'improvement', 'constructive', 'help', 'support', good for integration, 'development', 'better support/ services')</p> <p>-X5 Positive difference being a way to ease finding right support for complex needs from multiple agencies</p> <p>-X3 Based on Sanctuary seekers being involved an LRC could bring better understanding and be more effective</p> <p>-X2 LRC association or membership could provide quality assurance to funding bodies</p> <p>-Way to offer support despite little funding</p> <p>-Levelling up/ evening out of treatment and understanding of service users across the county (including Unitary authorities)</p> <p>-Best practice could/ would be shared</p> <p>-LRC would have goals that serve refugees</p> <p>-A place to talk about problems and obstacles to language learning (e.g. elderly)</p> <p>-'If this Centre is found', can be constructive and good step for near and long future</p> <p>-If the goals are to serve refugees, offer of help in organising and arranging refugees to make most of their capacity to contribute in/ to the UK</p> <p>-Less specific response about an LRC: 'Lots of things can improve our lives' which could be read either as saying LRC could be one of these and/ or that there is uncertainty/ lack of confidence that any <i>one</i> thing can make a big impact</p>	<p>2 comments came from respondents who had chosen either 'some positive impact' or 'big positive impact'</p> <p>The comments were contrasting and identified 2-way benefits:</p> <p>-could support understanding by families about statutory roles and limitations</p> <p>-the big positive impact would come from there being a central organisation that would be able to provide key advice and provide necessary support</p>	<p>4 comments came from respondents who chose Other, Some Positive, Some positive-Don't know-Big positive, and Big positive impact</p> <p>Only 1 of the 'no difference at all' selections was followed up with a FTR, potentially because the reasons for this view had been expressed elsewhere in the survey.</p> <p>-1 FTR following an 'Other' selection expressed that whether it could work was <i>'dependent on emergence of local self sustaining refugee organisations. In the meantime there are sufficient networked groups to cover the field'</i></p> <p>-1 FTR following a 'Some positive impact' selection put forward that an LRC would encourage a response at the level of the faith organisation in the locality rather than just individuals</p> <p>-1 FTR following selection of 3 answers (Some/ no impact and Don't know) expressed uncertainty <i>'at this early stage'</i> but if it did start they hoped it would have some positive impact as welcome addition to the fold of organisations looking to make life better for asylum seekers and refugees in our county/ UK.</p> <p>-1 FTR following selection of 'big positive impact' reiterating positivity that an LRC could share/ give information across the County, but with caveat: concern that it would introduce another bureaucratic <i>'layer of hoops'</i></p>

Combining the comparison of Statutory/ VFSO responses above with the tabular analysis of the 2 FTR from Statutory respondents, 4 from VFSO respondents and 20 FTR from sanctuary Seekers, the Core Research Team has identified priorities for the LRC Acting board in relation to this Values aspiration.

Figure 24. Priorities for an LRC Acting Board regarding aspiration to build on the value of work already done and bring further added value to that

Element	VALUES	
Aspiration	1. Be led and run by Sanctuary Seekers from within the County	3. Build on the value of work already done and bring further added value to that
Priorities for the LRC Acting Board in relation to this aspiration		<p>Opportunities: There is a mixture of confidence, hope, and uncertainty regarding whether an LRC can make a positive difference to individuals, and the work carried out by statutory and VFSO participants. A minority convey that it would not make any difference, but no participants anticipate that it would have a negative impact. All Sanctuary seeker FTR were positive, statutory FTR were positive and ¾ of the VFSO FTR were also positive or hopeful but uncertain. The benefits identified were wide ranging: making things easier; on the basis of having Sanctuary Seekers involved, more effective; on the basis of LRC membership, providing quality assurance to funding bodies; ways to offer more support despite limited funding; levelling up/ evening out of treatment of Sanctuary Seekers across the county; best practice could be shared; goals would serve refugees; a place to talk about problems and obstacles to language learning; 2-way benefits for statutory staff as Sanctuary Seekers might better understand statutory limitations and statutory staff would have access to 1 central source of advice and support; increase visibility of Sanctuary Seekers’ needs at institutional (faith organisation) level.</p> <p>Challenges: 1. CLARITY: Sanctuary Seekers’ FTR (x2) suggest, again, that there may be a perception that LRC will be a direct service provider; there is uncertainty ‘at this early stage’ so it will be necessary to be more specific in further consultation/ preparation in relation to how, practically, an LRC could make a positive difference. 2. It is suggested that whether it could work would depend on the emergence of self sustaining refugee organisations and that until then, the network of organisations that exist are enough. Perhaps the LRC can build into its organisational elements and activities a commitment to</p>

		capacity building, including supporting refugee organisations.
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Finally in this Values section, the authors identify key priorities for the LRC Acting Board in relation to the element.

Figure 25 Key priorities for an LRC Acting board in relation to VALUES

Element	VALUES	
Aspiration	1.Be led and run by Sanctuary Seekers from within the County	2.Build on the value of work already done and bring further added value to that
Priorities for the LRC Acting Board in relation to this theme	<p>The values aspirations are supported however less caution is expressed over the fulfilment of the second one.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Given the strong support for these aspirations to be fulfilled, the Acting Board could identify what can risk or jeopardise its values aspirations being fulfilled and identify specific actions related to those risks. Given multiple and specific concerns about the necessity of appropriate skills and experience for leading/ running an LRC from all groups, does aspiration 1. need to be re-considered/ revised? Does the concern about appropriate Sanctuary Seeker leadership capacity in Lancashire implicate identifying additional activities within themes or additional themes with its own set of activities related to capacity building? It was surprising that there were no selections of 'negative impact' given recurring mention of 'duplication' elsewhere in the survey. That it isn't mentioned as a concern here may point to this being a general question and overall, between the different activities the LRC is proposing, it is considered that the impact would be positive. That it isn't mentioned here, however, must not neglect the duplication issues that were raised about specific activities. If the values aspiration is a helpful element of organisational planning, does there need to be a more general values aspiration related to LRC's main benefits/ beneficiaries? the LRC board could consider a broader question relevant to values: is this an organisation <i>of</i> or an organisation <i>for or serving</i> Sanctuary Seekers? Does it have to be one or the other? 	

4.5 Structure

In this section the authors will report on data gathered regarding the organisational structure of an LRC and consultation on it. This is about the LRC wanting to develop a working model/ structure that can enable wide participation and a way that it can be structured and work so that the diverse population and organisations can feel part of it.

The authors report on responses gathered in the surveys relating to an LRC that would:

- *Be best structured and work so that the diverse populations and organisations can feel part of it*
- *Develop a working model/ structure that can enable wide participation*

STRUCTURE	
Be structured and work so that the diverse populations and organisations can feel part of it	Develop a working model/ structure that can enable wide participation

Within the surveys these two broad structural concerns or interests were presented as aims with questions following them about: a) whether, if the LRC was a membership organisation individuals and VFSO organisations would choose to become members; b) what kind of relationship statutory participants would want with an LRC; c) what benefits of membership people would want; and d) a request for any further suggestions regarding how an LRC might be structured and run and how Sanctuary Seekers could get involved.

The authors will present analysis of the data gathered that relates to these concerns/ interests about structure and then identify key points and priority issues under the broader theme/ category of work.

4.5.1 Structure interest 1: Be structured and work so that the diverse Populations and organisations can feel part of it

A membership organisation?

The VFSO and Sanctuary Seeker surveys put it to respondents that, if LRC was a membership organisation they could organisationally/ individually become members, would this be chosen? Within the Statutory Survey, the question was asked differently: What kind of relationship might your organisation like to have with an LRC? Options offered for selection were: Offering Information; Open to training from LRC; Research Interest; Membership; Other.

The table on the left shows and compares the distribution of responses to the direct question across the VFSO and Sanctuary Seeker surveys and on the right are the options chosen, including membership, by Statutory respondents.

Figure 26. Statutory responses regarding membership

Responses	Response distribution within surveys (numbers of responses)	
	VFSO (42 responses chosen)	Sanctuary Seekers (58 responses chosen)
Yes	33	44
No	2	1
Don't know	6	12
Other	1	1

Statutory survey	No
Offering info	10
Open to training from LRC	8
Research interest	3
Membership	3
other	2

Figure 27 Statutory – LRC relationship preferences

This shows that the majority of respondents in VFSO and Sanctuary seeker groups selected 'Yes' to membership, but the second most frequently selected answer was 'Don't know'. There is potentially some uncertainty/ important questions about membership that an LRC can be aware of and the FTR can shed light on. In terms of how membership was put to Statutory respondents, it was one of a range of relationship suggestions offered. As can be seen from the response distributions, it was chosen by a minority of respondents, with particular favour being shown to 'offering info' and being 'Open to training from LRC' pointing to enthusiasm for a two-way relationship. Again, FTR offered can help to gauge views on what kinds of relationship with an LRC that individuals and organisations may prefer and why.

Fleshing out what the numbers can tell us

There were 2 FTR from Sanctuary seekers and 9 from VFSO respondents.

Sanctuary Seekers FTR

- 1 FTR reiterated support generally but cautioned that they may not have time
- 1 FTR appeared to offer support generally to an LRC, but perhaps also perceiving that membership may come with responsibilities/ duties, writing that *'As a Syrian I believe that I know what my people and all refugees need and what they looking for and I believe that I can help in this case'*

VFSO FTR

- Across responses there is a common thread of LRC potentially offering a forum for connections, to build relations, to organise (5/9 FTR)
- Out of 2 'no' responses, only 1 elaborated in a way that suggested that as a small charity their current relations with/ contact with Sanctuary Seekers suited them and they would not want to join
- 1 response following a Don't know answer set conditions on membership: that it build on work that they have already done, perceiving that this body of work built by refugees, about refugees and for refugees, matched the aspirations of what the LRC aspires to do. There is, again, concern about duplication and an LRC not valuing, promoting, building on what has already been done
- Another FTR conveys a similar concern as above but also anger about hearing about this for the first time: *'Trying not to be defensive about our own organisation as we have no desire to build an empire, but wondering why we have not been involved in conversations from an early stage'*
- Need to be involved based on niche expertise that could be offered (but may be stretched)
- Anger that they have not heard about the proposal earlier
- Terms of reference would be needed before deciding on membership

Statutory FTR

- 1 FTR suggests that support would be welcome from an LRC for district councils in dealing with the politics of this issue plus in terms of delivering work with limited funding. Adding that LCC is good at supporting but it takes time and cost to make sure service is right for user, it would appear that the thought of having another source of general support is considered welcome.

- The second FTR reiterated elsewhere by a statutory respondent, is that 'I know LCC is supportive of the idea, but I don't have authority to speak for my whole organisation across the County'. This suggests that there may need to be discussions with local/ county authorities about the nature of relationship possible and most appropriate, with an LRC before individual statutory departments/ organisations can get involved.

Benefits of membership?

VFSO participants were asked: if it was a membership organisation, what would you like the benefits of membership to be? This was a FTR answer option only and there were 20 FTR out of a possible 42. The following identifies patterns and summarises comments made.

FTR regarding the benefits of membership

- Unsure x2
- Negative x2, with the comment that membership would make an LRC exclusive rather than inclusive, however another FTR commented that a benefit could *be 'inclusion for all'*
- Secure translators access/ interpretation services to enable meaningful communication (x2)
- X2 availability of/ access to legal advice
- 1 FTR commented that they could only see this working if members were existing Refugee led organisations such as a Syrian Association, Eritrean group, Iranian group, etc
- Access to events, activities, working in partnership with other agencies, building relationships, learning more about what is needed to support refugees and asylum seekers
- County-wide promotion of local stories, resources, training
- Opportunities to get help/ advice with specific ASR needs
- Wider opportunities to facilitate contact with ASR (especially if seeking church)
- Get more info about the education and language, lots of people struggle with everything
- Help those in need of education and finding homes
- Having influence over local councils and housing service to provide required support (LEVERAGE)
- Seeing the linking adults and children with different organisations available. ?funded
- Offered as community resource to refugees, to develop supportive network of partnerships that promote inclusion and access to statutory/ charitable organisations
- It will help ASR who have skills to take part in integration programme and give them opportunity to get paid job

Having traced patterns and identified recurring and isolated issues in the data relating to membership and relations with an LRC, priorities for the LRC Acting Board are identified in relation to this structural concern.

Priorities for the LRC Acting Board in relation to the concern to be structured and work so that the diverse populations and organisations can feel part of it

Figure 28

Element	STRUCTURE	
Concern/ Interest	Be structured and work so that the diverse populations and organisations can feel part of it	Develop a working model/ structure that can enable wide participation
Priorities for the LRC Acting Board in relation to this structural concern	<p>Membership was a popular possibility among both VFSO and Sanctuary Seeker respondents, but less so among the suggested relationship options put in the statutory survey, where Offering info/ receiving training were the most frequently selected options. This statutory selection reflects a desired 2-way relationship that has been identified elsewhere in this report. Influence, leverage from working together in an LRC was mentioned as a benefit of membership (VFSO). Other benefits of membership identified by VFSO included: County wide promotion of activities, wider opportunities to facilitate contact with ASR, accessing information about many things, as a community resource to refugees, develop supportive network of partnerships that promote inclusion and access. Whether it could open opportunities for Sanctuary Seeker employment was raised.</p> <p>Caution:</p> <p>1. It was questioned whether membership would make an LRC exclusive rather than inclusive however another interpreted membership as offering inclusion for all (open membership). Would there be any conditions or categories of membership? Is membership necessary for people to feel part of an LRC?</p> <p>2. 1 VFSO organisation suggested that they could only see this working if members were existing Refugee led organisations such as Syrian Association, Eritrean Association. Would membership be on a group basis?</p>	

	<p>3. Time demands, e.g. for meetings, suggested by membership was a recurring concern for individuals and organisations. Would there be expectations of members if it was a membership organisation?</p> <p>4. DUPLICATION: A condition is outlined for membership by 1 VFSSO: that the LRC build on work they have already done. CONSULTATION In addition, talk of membership appears to have triggered indignation on the part of one organisation as to how far along LRC's plans are and why this organisation has not been involved earlier. Together these concerns point to the need for the LRC Acting board to consider whether a) there are already initiatives that can provide a template for the LRC and b) whether the LRC Acting board needs to review its composition and/ or whether further consultation needs to be done on a more personal or differentiated basis according to areas/ key players, to capitalise on resources available to it.</p> <p>Additional issues:</p> <p>1. Sanctuary Seekers directly offer help to the organisation. How can this interest and willingness be channelled and utilised, even at an early stage?</p>	
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4.5.2 Structure interest 2: Develop a working model/ structure that can enable wide participation

Here the authors turn to data gathered about whether Sanctuary Seekers and VFSO participants would get involved in an LRC group in their locality if there was one and, in the case of VFSO participants, how they would like to get involved.

STRUCTURE	
Be structured and work so that the diverse populations and organisations can feel part of it	Develop a working model/ structure that can enable wide participation

Involvement

Sanctuary Seekers and VFSO participants were asked more generally if they would get involved with an LRC if there was a group in their town/ area of residence. The table below shows the responses given by these 2 groups:

Figure 29 Willingness/ interest to get involved if there was a local LRC group

	Sanctuary Seekers (57 responses)	VFSO (41 responses)
Yes	41	31
No		1
Don't know	8	15
Other	1	

This shows that a large proportion of respondents from both groups would choose to get involved, and again, but a sizeable minority are unsure.

Fleshing out what the numbers can tell us

There were, in addition, Free Text Responses, 1 from Sanctuary Seeker respondents and 5 from VFSO respondents.

Sanctuary Seekers FTR

- A simple reiteration of positivity about involvement: *'That would be great!'*

VFSO FTR

- 1 FTR identifies that as they are already part of a lived experience group, they would not join another group (this follows from the 'No' answer in this group, above). Whether because this is of time/ resources generally or that it is presumed that an LRC group active in the town would equate to a lived experience group is unclear, but raises the issue of what local LRC groups, if they existed, would be engaged with/ focus on/ made up by. This requires further clarification
- 2 FTR comment that time/ resources to attend regular meetings may be a challenge
- 1 FTR identifies that they feel they would need to get involved as potentially offering advice regarding a minority group of Sanctuary Seekers where expertise and experience for this group is relatively scarce, but nonetheless time/ resources may be scarce for regular meetings
- 1 FTR simply states enthusiasm to engage and connect
- 1 FTR identifies that they would support 'within charitable aims' suggesting that as long as the aims of an LRC did not clash with their own charitable aims or vice versa.

If you would like to get involved, *how* would you like to do this?

In addition, VFSO respondents were asked what sort of involvement they would like to have. This only gave free text response options. There were 9 FTR from VFSO and the patterns and summaries are offered below:

What the FTR show us

Meetings

- Much mention of attending meetings, being a proactive member, however it is also noted in 1 FTR that VFSO are very stretched and may not be available for public meetings
- An 'initial contact meeting' is one FTR, suggesting either a gesture of involvement if LRC began, or it may be asking for initial contact meetings, for further consultation/ preparation

Offers of particular support

- There are many references to offering: support, advice, organising events, activities, acting in an advisory capacity to ensure LGBT inclusion, creating projects to support integration, raise funds to support refugees, particularly to engage in social events to encourage integration

Unsure

- 1 FTR states that they can't commit at the moment *'would wait and see how it develops over time and what opportunities to get involved might be'*

Other

- 1 FTR identifies that they would like to get involved by getting a job in the LRC as a Case Worker. This raises the issue, again, of whether an LRC is going to provide case work/ services directly, or only signpost *to services*.

Other suggestions regarding how an LRC might be structured and run and how Sanctuary Seekers could get involved

Both the VFSO and Sanctuary Seeker survey versions included a final question inviting free text responses with any suggestions for how an LRC might be structured. There were 13 FTR from Sanctuary Seekers and 14 from VFSO.

The following table summarises these responses, identifying common themes and grouping suggestions according to these themes.

Figure 30 Summary of suggestions offered by Sanctuary Seekers and VFSO participants regarding how an LRC might be structured/ run and how Sanctuary Seekers could get involved.

Sanctuary Seeker FTR	VFSO FTR
<p>Theme: maximising diverse involvement (geographical and demographic) --collaboration and partnership work most needed to get best outcomes for ASR -Needs to be qualified culturally informed practitioners involved in the committee to ensure strategic decisions made are in the best interest of all service users -Would recommend a fair mix of nationalities, multilingual speakers, race, religion to be members of board of trustees if this is to have charitable status alongside existing members with knowledge of the present ASR processes -too many unknowns at present -the project can be announced, Do a meeting in all cities to talk about the importance of the project - Don't know but I think e can make a day/ week or do groups to make people involve and chat with each other, can encourage people how to communicate and involve in the local community just make life more active, add fun games -Suggest training one or more people in each city on how to provide services to refugees and reach them</p>	<p>Theme: maximising diverse involvement (geographical and demographic) -Coordinating leads from different areas to be able to voice ideas/ opinions -Could be network with LRC council members represented by up to 6 people from each town/ city in the county of whom half would be Sanctuary Seekers. Every 3 months meet on zoom County wide to discuss ideas/ concerns -Should have places across Lancashire -involved directly with ASR by having representatives in LRC -Interpreters/ translators may be needed -training a group of refugees to become reps and employees of all refugees -experts by training and experts by experience working together -important that Sanctuary Seekers are not asked to give labour for free whatever structure is adopted</p> <p>Theme: addressing different issues -be active online with specific teams dealing with specific issues, e.g. community, employment ...</p>

<p>-Establishing unified centre for LRC and employing a person from each city from the immigrants -Many things but important thing is that refugees are in this organisation even if they don't speak English</p> <p>Addressing different issues -Would it be realistically possible to forge good links with HO/ SERCO? DWP? -Understand the requirements of refugees: interest in education and facilitating access to scholarships; refugees must be divided according to professional inclinations and psychological comfort; providing ways to communicate with the community</p> <p>Organisation structure -too many unknowns at present. Paid staff alongside volunteers? Sustainable funding? -vital to have mix from housing, Local authority, agencies with great % ASR -Establishing unified centre for LRC and employing a person from each city from the immigrants -Don't know, but there's an educated person who's going to [needs to?] run it</p> <p>Miscellaneous -no plans</p>	<p>-different departments of LRC dealing with different issues</p> <p>Organisation structure -Needs to be a charity or trust, with straightforward constitution that benefits the people you need to help -A leader, Chair, a committee and various active roles across different specialist areas. Maybe Asylum Seekers and Refugees can apply for different roles and positions -Balance of ASR with social, health, housing and educational professionals. Absolutely include legal rep -important that Sanctuary Seekers are not asked to give labour for free whatever structure is adopted -People get involved with helpful things – English classes, family reunion, health</p> <p>Miscellaneous -hardest obstacle is to be known -essential experts by experience able to share in meaningful coproduction of service and effect change/ have impact on how services, councils, groups are promoted and delivered -important that Sanctuary Seekers are not asked to give labour for free whatever structure is adopted</p>
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Summary and priorities for the LRC Acting Board in relation to developing a working model/ structure that can enable wide participation

Having traced patterns in data relating to this concern, the table below identifies priorities for the LRC Acting Board.

Figure 31. Priorities for the LRC Acting Board regarding Developing a working model/ structure than can enable wide participation.

Element	STRUCTURE	
Concern/ Interest	Be structured and work so that the diverse populations and organisations can feel part of it	Develop a working model/ structure that can enable wide participation
Priorities for the LRC Acting Board		Opportunities: 2/3 of Sanctuary Seeker participants and 2/3 VFSO participants expressed interest and enthusiasm to get involved whilst others were mainly not sure. Interest in getting involved were varied, from niche advice, fund raising,

		<p>organising events, attending meetings and enthusiasm to be employed as a Case worker for an LRC. Many other suggestions provided by Sanctuary Seeker and VFSO participants regarding how an LRC might be structured and run and how Sanctuary Seekers could get involved. They related to: maximising diverse involvement (geographical and demographic); addressing different issues; its legal structure; and a number of miscellaneous ideas. Maximising diverse/ wide involvement: common emphasis was placed on each town/ area having representation and Sanctuary Seekers in this representation even if it had a central base. Addressing different issues: common emphasis was on focusing on different issues; understanding requirements of refugees. Organisation structure: having mix of professional specialisms. Miscellaneous: essential inclusion of expertise by experience in co-production of LRC.</p> <p>Challenges:</p> <p>1.CLARITY: that suggestions for involvement included many practical things including regular social meet-ups and employment as a Case Worker points to the need for an LRC to communicate clearly about the scope of its proposed work to avoid any misplaced expectations about whether it will be a service provider/ open door/ socially active organisation as well as more ‘back office’ activities. Hesitation was attributed to lack of details at this stage: too many unknowns at present.</p> <p>2.TIME demands: this was a recurring concern. This points to the need for an LRC to clarify how much involvement it will depend on, particularly voluntary involvement, for it to work. On this note it was expressed that Sanctuary Seekers not be asked to give their labour for free.</p> <p>3.Language: among Sanctuary Seekers and VFSO participants it was emphasised that language should not be a barrier to participation and that translators should be available to enable participation</p> <p>4. Expertise of different kinds needed (professional) as well as expertise by experience. The suggestion that Sanctuary Seekers could apply for positions could be considered.</p> <p>Additional issues:</p> <p>1.Among the ‘unknowns’ participants mentioned, it was asked if there would be paid staff alongside volunteers and would there be sustainable funding?</p>
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Having focused on the two concerns of structure separately, we now turn to summarise key priorities for the LRC Acting Board regarding Structure as a whole.

Figure 32. Priorities for the LRC acting Board regarding Structure

Element	STRUCTURE	
Concern/ Interest	Be structured and work so that the diverse populations and organisations can feel part of it	Develop a working model/ structure that can enable wide participation
Priorities for the LRC Acting Board regarding STRUCTURE	<p>1. Becoming a membership organisation for Sanctuary Seekers and VFSO is worth exploring further, perhaps in terms of how other organisations do it. The benefits of being a membership organisation need to be clear</p> <p>2. The relationship with statutory organisations warrants different attention with potentially formal links being established to characterise 2-way relationship</p> <p>3. What part in the structure are refugee groups, old and emerging, going to play in the LRC structure and/ or prioritised for development?</p> <p>4. DUPLICATION: are there initiatives/ organisations already in Lancashire on which LRC can model itself or simply extend in order to address both concerns under the Structure element?</p> <p>5. CLARITY: the organisation's scope and therefore appropriate structure is yet unclear. Factors such as funding, whether it is intending to have multiple bases, social events/ practical activities, need clarifying to develop a structure</p> <p>6. Enthusiasm/ willingness to be involved: how to channel this without exploiting Sanctuary Seekers' availability?</p> <p>7. Wide presence/ representation involved in heart of organisation: across Lancashire, ethnic diversity, professional diversity</p>	

4.6 Conceptual status of an LRC: Critical reflections upon Consultation and Communication

The numbers – and possibly lack of diversity - of Lancashire’s Sanctuary Seekers who have expressed their views in this research might provide reason to question whether there is, as the FTR above put it, ‘... a mandate to act as a coordinating voice’ (*Statutory participant*), but it is less the numbers that concern this section than the veracity of the data. This is absolutely not to suggest that participants didn’t give true and very thoughtful responses. Rather it is to reflect upon how firmly and strongly we can rely on and make conclusive claims based on these patterns due to a question that emerged from the data regarding whether all participants were saying ‘yes’ or ‘no’ (broadly speaking) to the same thing: the same concept of what an LRC would be. This means that the apparent majority support needs to be followed by a question: support for what? what kind of organisation? Whilst this has been a topic for methodological reflections in the report – how effectively the research methodology chosen facilitated common understanding and what may have been done differently – the data gathered pointed to issues that reflect substantively on the proposal for an LRC (what concept/ status?) with implications for further consultation/ preparation on it (how best, with who?).

The importance of reporting on these issues became apparent to the research team as the data came in and clearer once the data was comprehensively analysed. The question was:

Were some of the answers relating to a proposal for an LRC as another new albeit ambitious player on the field of Sanctuary Seeker Support in the County or about a proposed intervention in that field affecting all the existing players, or both?

Furthermore, the data suggested that depending on what kind of ‘thing’ people thought LRC would be, prompted a variety of feelings: hope, concern and indignation about the LRC proposal development process so far. The patterns, caveats, questions that this section presents can all have a bearing on next steps in terms of *what* and *how*. Firstly the range of conceptual interpretations detected in the research are outlined and explained.

A range of interpretations of what the LRC was proposing to be:

Taken from the LRC draft constitution, the survey preamble and survey questions identified that an LRC was proposing to have county-wide scope, county-wide relevance and be active for county-wide benefit. However, it was both evident and suggested in the data that there were different

interpretations of this scope, with accompanying hopes and concerns as to what an LRC would be or represent. Five interpretations could be detected through comprehensive content and pattern/thematic analysis of participants' response choices and FTR. They are shown in the box below. 1, 2 and 3 were the most common interpretations of the status of LRC detected from the data, with 4 and 5 picked up from small numbers of distinct responses.

Figure 33 A range of status interpretations of what an LRC is proposing to be

- A range of status interpretations of what an LRC is proposing to be:**
- 1. LRC as 'game changer' for being both additional player on and proposed intervention in the field***
 - 2. LRC as 'game changer' for being a proposed intervention in the field affecting all the existing players***
 - 3. LRC as a new player with uncertain credentials***
 - 4. LRC posing as a 'game changer' but actually a substitute referee***
 - 5. LRC posing as a 'game changer' but actually another big-talking off-field manager***

As will be evident, these interpretations pivot on the notions of 'game changer', 'field' and 'player'. 'Game changer' is used to mean 'something such as an event or product that affects a situation or area of business very much' (Cambridge English Dictionary) and 'field' refers simply to an area of activity or interest (CED), or sociologically (from Bourdieu) a specific social arena or space operating a little like a market or game with implicit and explicit 'rules of the game' in which 'players' (individuals, institutions) have different amounts of 'capital' (economic, cultural, social) to exchange, invest or 'play' with (Bourdieu 1977; see Crossley 2002: 179). Here the potential game changer as a new player is an LRC and the 'field' is the county-wide activity of Sanctuary Seeker support. These were terms that the Core research team selected for their interpretive value during final analysis to make sense of what could be seen in the data. It drew on intensive analysis discussions within the Extended research team where Coresearchers detected that views expressed seemed to reflect something about the 'competitive field' that Sanctuary Seeker support organisations operate in, in which an LRC could be viewed as a 'new player'. The Core research team wish to note that it wasn't used by participants themselves and it is not intended to diminish the work of organisations or needs of Sanctuary Seekers by any frivolous associations of the word 'game'. Far from it: the extended application of the term 'game changer' is employed here to indicate the pivotal role an

LRC could play, altering the context or conditions of the field for all players. The far-reaching potential of the LRC proposal was evident to the whole research team during analysis.

The different interpretations are now explored in turn for how and among whom they were evident in the research. Issues and questions arising from them are identified before summarising challenges, opportunities, questions that can hopefully inform the LRC Acting Board.

1.LRC as ‘game changer’ for being both additional player on *and* proposed intervention in the field

This interpretation of LRC’s aspirations was evident particularly among some Sanctuary Seeker participants’ contributions to the research but also among VFSO responses. The first findings section of this report has shown that high and more unanimous support was found among Sanctuary Seeker participants compared to the other groups consulted. If the tallies and distributions of responses shows this, it was more evident from FTR that, as follow up comments to closed option answer selections or stand-alone answers, there were some very high expectations and hopes of an LRC and/ or this research was an opportunity to express a wide variety of needs that had not been met by existing organisations. If there was going to be a new organisation, these were the things that it needed to do and be to fulfil and correct what was missing and hadn’t been fulfilled. These appeared to be hopes for a new initiative that could and would do everything, interpreted as a ‘big promise’ as one of the Coresearchers aptly put it. Crucially, all the proposed activities were strongly supported and various unstated additional benefits, functions and offerings appeared to be projected and presumed.

If LRC’s proposals and this consultation was predominantly about a strategic-level intervention that could benefit Sanctuary Seekers, it appeared from the combination of closed answer options selected plus recurring FTR offered, that this was an interpretation of an LRC that would intervene in the field at a high/ wide and consequential level *as well as* provide a range of services directly for refugees, *plus* be a physical place(s) to go and be; a game changing ‘back office’ *and* open door and service delivery organisation. There is a sense from this interpretation that Sanctuary Seekers perceived it to be ‘Our organisation, our space, for us’. Reflecting the game changing ambition of this LRC as new player *and* intervention in the field, whilst there was strong support for LRC’s proposed commitment that Sanctuary Seekers lead and run it, there was also concern across the 3 groups that leaders and staff have appropriate skills, knowledge and experience and ways for Sanctuary Seekers without these to gain them. This interpretation is not necessarily a

misinterpretation but rather may have identified helpful questions and challenges for the LRC Acting board to consider.

Key issues and questions that need to be addressed in relation to this interpretation:

1. Clarity over whether an LRC would undertake coordinating/ strategic level *and* service delivery activities
2. Clarity over whether the LRC, if it has a physical base or bases, would be a 'centre' also accessible as a semi-social space with an open door policy with volunteers/ staff available for meeting and talking with Sanctuary Seekers/ other visitors. In other words, clarity over whether it would be a 'back office' *and* open door entity. Where would it be?
3. How would this LRC make itself visible and available to the whole of Lancashire and particularly minority groups of Sanctuary Seekers?
4. How to respond to expectations of Sanctuary Seekers from this and in any further consultation if this interpretation is incorrect?
5. How best to go about further consultation with Sanctuary Seekers where this research may have identified unfamiliarity with strategic level consultation?
6. What to do with or to 'capitalise' on the desire for something new and willingness to be involved where an LRC may not be able to be all the things or offer all the opportunities hoped of it?
7. If an LRC is to start, how best to be transparent and accountable about what is decided and pace of development (which may be slower than expected/ hoped for?)
8. There is a sense from this interpretation that Sanctuary Seekers perceived it to be 'Our organisation, our space, for us'. How would this LRC's commitment to valuing expertise by experience among Sanctuary Seekers combine with the necessary expertise to lead and run an ambitious new player and intervention-in-the-field organisation?
9. If this status perception of an LRC is incorrect, it casts a little doubt on the strong support shown by respondents who answered questions with this interpretation in mind.

LRC as 'game changer' for being a proposed intervention in the field affecting all the existing players

This interpretation of LRC's status was evident in data gathered from all 3 participant groups, but particularly so among VFSO respondents.

There was a sense gained from some of the data that rather than dealing with/ having to find many different organisations oneself or try to do everything oneself, an LRC could potentially ease,

accelerate, add weight to, facilitate, promote what is already done plus offer additional services for the benefit of all. It appeared to be understood that an LRC was aspiring to be an intervention in the 'field' of Sanctuary Seeker support in the County by providing, if you like, both 'back office' services (provider/ facilitator of information, networking, platform) as well as specialist capacity (leadership on research, statutory providers communications/ advocacy, sub-groups coordination and action). It would be a County-wide, County-relevant organisation that could *serve* existing organisations and serve individuals by being: a central repository for and source of information (signposting and information provider); central platform, advocate or spokesperson (promotion of voices); add and have leverage through coordinating joint action (guide and influence statutory providers); be a central node for facilitating connections and networks (be a link between ASR and between VFSO); convene County-relevant focused working groups (have sub-groups that would focus on issues most important to refugees); offer research services (carry out its own research about matters important to ASR and share results to improve understanding); prioritising expertise by experience (be led and run by Sanctuary Seekers).

Where it was evident that LRC was interpreted as aspiring to be a 'game changer' for being a proposed intervention in the field of Sanctuary Seeker support, such an LRC attracted some strong support, some uncertainty, doubt, suspicion, some caution and hesitation and some indignation about the consultation process. It is regrettable that the research did not gather data on respondents' location in Lancashire, to get an idea of County-wide responses. However, the support for this status of LRC included responses that suggested such an intervention would have great value for areas where there is less familiarity with and experience of Sanctuary Seeker populations where institutions (voluntary and statutory) are inexperienced, unaware of wider practice and resources and may feel they have to learn/ start from scratch. Support was sometimes expressed with uncertainty as to whether this LRC could actually deliver on or *be* this game changing intervention: would it have sustainable funding?; could it realistically influence the Home office/ SERCO? Caution and hesitation were expressed on a variety of grounds among responses that appear to reflect this status perception of an LRC. Ground for this uncertainty/ hesitation were: a) it may not actually be necessary or meaningful because of existing networks – there was much use of the word 'already' in the VFSO FTR; b) that there may be value in it but only if it built directly on existing work, specific initiatives that have been doing what the LRC aspires to do; c) that it is not something to be rushed and could only be effective if refugee community groups were more established beforehand; and d) if county-wide activity is desired, more regular initiatives such as the Lancashire Sanctuary Conferences (2017, 2018) were effective and maybe this would be enough; and e) reflecting the apparent ambition of this LRC, whilst there was strong support for LRC's proposed commitment that

Sanctuary Seekers lead and run it, there was also concern that leaders and staff have appropriate skills, knowledge and experience and ways for Sanctuary Seekers without these to gain them. Finally, here, there was strong indignation/ anger expressed by one VFSO participant about the consultation process: *'Trying not to be defensive about our own organisation as we have no desire to build an Empire but wondering why we have not been involved in conversations from an early stage'* (VFSO FTR Q8). Apart from raising important questions and issues regarding further consultation/ preparation, this strength of feeling appears to reflect this particular game-changing intervention status-interpretation of an LRC.

Again, this is not necessarily an accurate perception of what an LRC aspires to be, but rather may have identified helpful questions and challenges for the LRC Acting board to think through.

Key issues and questions that need to be addressed in relation to this interpretation:

1. Clarity is needed over the extent to which LRC aspires to be a 'game changing' intervention in the field of Sanctuary Seeker support and whether it would, indeed, exclude service delivery
2. Would – and how would this LRC have presence, visibility across Lancashire?
3. How realistic is a game changing intervention insofar unless it has secure funding?
4. As a mainly strategic/ back office offering, how would it be accountable to the Sanctuary Seeker population of Lancashire in terms of commitments to Sanctuary Seekers?
5. Is there a need for this LRC to have a differentiated approach to further consultation/ preparation and for its working model in different parts of Lancashire depending on whether current established networks exist?
6. How would an LRC formally relate to existing network organisations in the county like City of Sanctuary?
7. This research has detected that existing key players may feel concerned/ threatened by a new initiative that seeks to be overarching and make an offering to all organisations when established organisations have built up considerable expertise, resources. How can the potential new player address this in further consultation/ preparation address and by how it is structured/ works?
8. Would this LRC defer to or offer to take over responsibility for, or have the ability to fund and expand activities that are already done by some networking organisations or single organisations (e.g. signposting, providing information) in order to build on what already exists?

9. Is there need now to review the composition of the steering group to ensure it includes key players? On the other hand, how can this LRC ensure that small and new 'players' all over Lancashire (particularly without existing network organisations) are included in further consultation/ preparation?
10. If this more strategic 'back office' LRC had a physical base, where would this be? Would it be appropriate to think about a rotating location to prevent perception by less predictable locations of peripherality to LRC?
11. Related to that and the valuing of experience, is it necessary for the steering group to consider further whether this LRC is an organisation made up *of* refugees or an organisation *for/ to serve* refugees, or both?

LRC as a new player with uncertain credentials and intentions

This interpretation of LRC's status was also a relatively commonly found one, with a sense that whether in the closed answer option selections or in FTR offered, people were not sure how to respond, felt they needed more information and that it was too early a stage to tell. What was this proposed new player?

Across the 3 surveys there were 73 'don't know' answers selected, 9.4% of the whole response distribution, and 7.5% of all of the FTR expressed uncertainty – I'm not sure, too early to say etc. or posed a question. A breakdown of uncertainty indicated by proportions of 'don't know' answers within participant group total responses shows that within the Sanctuary Seeker group 5.7% of responses chosen were 'Don't know' (27/115). 6% of statutory sector responses were 'don't know' (7/113) and 10% of VFSO responses (39/385). These 'don't know' selections were sometimes in addition to another response, but nonetheless it indicates uncertainty.

As mentioned above, for most participants this would have been the first they had heard about an LRC and its proposed activities. As illustrated by the 2 most common status perceptions described above, contrasting interpretations of what an LRC would be came through. That these may be misinterpretations of what the LRC Acting Board has in mind is a possibility and attests to the need for more clarity and more information.

Key issues and questions that need to be addressed in relation to this interpretation:

1. Further preparation and exploratory work, possibly with the help of this research/ external facilitation and possibly visits to/ from organisations that the Acting Board seeks to emulate in some way, may be helpful to provide more clarity on desired status of an LRC

2. Further consultation/ preparation needs to be based on more clarity of aspired status for an LRC - what kind of player is it proposing to be? But at the same time, to genuinely respond to any further consultation, perhaps the Acting Board can consider a range of options that can leave some margin for feedback to have an effect.

LRC as a substitute referee or agent/ advocate

This too was a minority status that could be identified from the research and was picked up in data from the Sanctuary Seeker survey and the VFSO survey.

At the moment the main Lancashire wide administration is the County Council which, since its participation in the Syrian Resettlement Programme has taken on an expanded role in relation to Sanctuary Seeker support, coordinating the settlement of refugees in different parts of Lancashire through these programmes. The resettlement programmes have come with central funding that have placed the County council arguably in a position of central node, gatekeeper/ treasurer in relation to knowing what is happening and fund distribution.

With an LRC proposing to be County-relevant and be an information provider/ signpost activities happening across the county, there is a sense in which an LRC will not only be a resource for the county but arguably may take on some of roles that have been done by the County Council or may become the County level go-to instead of the County Council for individuals and organisations to find things out. For Resettled refugees, the County Council has sometimes been seen, rightly or wrongly, as responsible for sorting out problems in resettlement localities that cannot be resolved with the locality Case work provider (see Blunt 2018); an uncomfortable combination of patron and arbiter that inevitably does not always end in the result a Sanctuary Seeker wants. A comment from one Sanctuary Seeker participant to the proposal that Sanctuary Seekers lead and run an LRC was, *'I think it will help Lancashire county Council to know what we [are] thinking. A lot of us don't know the rules of the UK. So they will help them when taking responsibility to solve all problems that will happen with them because they feel and realise what we want'* (Sanctuary Seeker FTR Q7). Here this person casts an LRC led and run by Sanctuary Seekers as becoming a more suitable responsive County body.

One VFSO respondent to the research mentioned a project they were engaged with in relation to the 'promotion of voices' proposed activity. This was to show that this activity was already done and wasn't needed. However, they added *'County Council does not promote these, so we also don't know if this is done in other areas'*. There is an indication here that knowing about activities in other areas

is quite dependent upon the County Council promoting it. Although the purpose of the person's comment was to illustrate their selection of 'it is already done a little bit but could be done better'. If an LRC takes on a signposting role, there is perhaps a sense that this will no longer be expected of the County council but will be taken on by an LRC

Key issues and questions that need to be addressed in relation to this interpretation:

1. Are there any issues that need to be discussed internally in relation to this status interpretation to answer potential questions about LRC proposed activities that are currently undertaken by the County Council as the main county-wide body involved in the support of Sanctuary Seekers?

LRC posing as a 'game changer' but actually another big-talking manager

The final status-interpretation is that of LRC posing as a game changer but actually just another big talking manager. This was only evident in 1 Sanctuary Seeker response but pointed to an important element that may be more widely felt should the LRC Acting Board carry out further consultation. The Sanctuary Seeker respondent's comment was made in response to LRC's proposal that it be led and run by Sanctuary Seekers. This participant did not select a closed answer option but rather wrote, *'We've been talked [to] over and over again, but to no avail, none of the promises have been made, and we haven't seen any interest'*. Although this person did complete the survey, so engaged to some extent with the consultation, their response to this question suggests disengagement from proposals and ideas put to them/ consultations on thoughts/ needs on the basis that little or nothing has materialised as a result. As mentioned elsewhere in the report, the LRC proposals appear to be a 'big promise' and wariness of engaging with it only to find it was 'all talk' and be disappointed is a status perception that is important to be aware of. Combined with the strong support of Sanctuary Seekers apparent in the first section of these findings and an apparent perception of LRC as game changer as new player and intervention on and in the field, needs to be borne in mind.

Key issues and questions that need to be addressed in relation to this interpretation:

1. As no proposal comes in a vacuum, it is possible that previous negative experiences among Sanctuary Seekers may affect trust of a new ambitious sounding idea that appears to have ambitious proposals. If further consultation is carried out with particular groups of Sanctuary Seekers, it would then seem important to be especially clear about what an LRC could be and do.

This conceptual exploration is pivotal to how the LRC Acting Board takes the findings offered in this report forward. It has outlined that the overall picture of findings indicating majority support for an LRC needs to be read with some caution in case different perceptions of or hopes of what an LRC can be (status perceptions) have informed participants' responses to a great extent. That the survey may have been the first people heard about an LRC idea could mean that people have responded according to their own longstanding/ immediate needs in mind, or alternatively with firm ideas about what a Refugee Council is or should be. The identification of the first status interpretation outlined here – that of both game changer as a new player on the field and as an intervention in the field of Sanctuary Seeker Support – highlighted 4 others for their contrasts. The first two identified were the dominant status perceptions detected in the data and it may be that one of these matches more closely with what the LRC aspires to be, however all 5 may be helpful references. Issues and questions identified can potentially inform discussions within the board about next steps and the sporting analogies may help people to visualise and talk about what it is that the LRC aspires to be in the field of Sanctuary Support in Lancashire.

5.0 Conclusions and recommendations

The overarching purpose of this research was to flesh out and define what the purpose, priorities and working model of an LRC might be. It had 4 broad aims within that: a) to communicate and consult on the proposal for an LRC and proposed activities of an LRC; b) to identify priority issues that an LRC might focus on; c) identify how an LRC could work and what value such a County-wide initiative might have and *add* to what already exists and happens in different parts of Lancashire in relation to Sanctuary Seeker (Asylum Seekers and Refugees) support and d) across these, begin to identify challenges/ opportunities the group could helpfully be aware of.

The findings have been presented in 5 parts. The first offered the reader a sense of whether an LRC had general support and the cross question cross survey analysis conducted for this, as well as other data drawn on, indicated that there was support from the 3 participant groups. However, it was advised that each proposal's responses required further exploration to unpack patterns and make sense of negative or uncertain answers to inform LRC's next steps.

Parts 2 – 5 of the findings are organised under headings that not only provide a way to arrange the data in a meaningful way, but can also offer a potential map of elements making up an LRC. These are: *Activities (grouped within themes)*, *Structure (how the organisation could work)*, *Values (what matters to the organisation)* and *Conceptual Status (what kind of organisation is LRC aspiring to be)*. These sections have unpacked the data in detail, tracing patterns in the responses. All the proposals appear supported, some very strongly and others slightly less so and there are sometimes noticeable differences between participant-groups' answers. Through close analysis of the data, the authors have sought to identify key priorities and/ or questions, challenges and opportunities, for the LRC Acting Board to take forward in their next steps. Care has been taken to pay attention to grounds for support, sources of uncertainty and sometimes rejection of a proposal, where data was available to interpret these.

There are many element-related priorities, questions, challenges and opportunities identified and it will be for focused work on different elements to address these. Overall, however, the following issues come through as recurring and the most important to address:

- Clarity of status and clarity of activity scope: what kind of initiative of intervention does LRC aspire to be and will activities and its operation include service delivery and an open door?
- Concerns about duplication between aspects of what the LRC proposes to do and the existing work of networks and organisations

- How to be a refugee council for the whole of Lancashire, in terms of far-flung populations and organisations but also in terms of diverse groups.
- Whether to add activities or even themes of work to its current set of proposals, such as Capacity Building as an additional activity or as a theme under which other additional activities could be added.
- There are concerns from all 3 participant groups about the importance of those leading and running this organisation having necessary resources, appropriate skills, experience, local connections and understanding. Whilst there is extremely strong support for LRC to be an organisation led and run by Sanctuary Seekers, this support comes with the greatest number of 'Yes – but' caveats of all the proposals.

The Core research team advise that this report be treated as offering signals and indications for further consultation and preparation rather than a definitive and comprehensive answer to whether and how an LRC should go ahead and operate. It is in part because of relatively low numbers of Sanctuary seeker participants but moreover because of contrasting conceptual perceptions of an LRC that became apparent. These cast an LRC in different roles in/ on the 'field' of Sanctuary seeker support in Lancashire, and without more information and the opportunity to hear more and ask questions from the steering group, it is possible that proposals were responded to in-light of contrasting status perceptions. Clarity both within the board and in wider communications about what an LRC will *not* try to do as well as what it aspires to do, will be beneficial. The authors therefore offer this report as a potential basis and reference for further planning, preparation and consultation.

Reflection within the Extended research team provides some final thoughts. One of the Co-researchers described the proposals of the LRC as like being a 'big promise'; a bold statement of aspirations. Such is an idea in its early stages when it can't move forward yet with practical steps that might themselves test or challenge the ideal, because of needing to know if it will be at least somewhat supported. The findings of this scoping review point to there being a strong enough indication of support, and provide resources with which, to move forward, with firmer, clearer, practical consultation, and it is the extended research team's view that those plans particularly need to try and reach a broad range of language communities among Lancashire's Sanctuary Seeker population.

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Appendix

Table 2: cross-question and cross-group analysis of responses to questions that stated proposed activities of the LRC

Responses	Q	Sanctuary Seekers (58 respondents)	Statutory Sector (14 respondents)	VFSO (42 respondents)	Total number of responses to this Q across 3 surveys
Strongly Supported	1	55	12	26	93
	2	33	1	10	44
	3	34	2	16	52
	4	46	7	26	79
	6	49	12	33	94
	7	46	11	36	93
	Total no. responses across these Q		263	45	147
Little – medium supported	1	0	2	12	14
	2	20	11	30	61
	3	17	10	23	50
	4	9	6	10	25
	6	8	3	5	16
	7	8	1	4	13
	Total no. responses across these Q		62	33	84
Not supported	1	1	0	1	2
	2	4	2	1	7
	3	4	2	1	7
	4	1	0	1	2
	6	1	0	0	1
	7	0	0	0	0
	Total no. responses across these Q		11	4	4
Don't know	1	0	0	1	1
	2	0	0	5	5
	3	0	0	4	4
	4	0	1	3	4
	6	0	0	3	3
	7	0	1	2	3
	Total no. responses across these Q		0	2	17
Other	1	2	0	2	4
	2	4	0	0	0
	3	6	0	1	7
	4	4	0	1	5
	6	1	0	1	2
	7	2	1	2	5
	Total no. responses		19	1	7
Total number of responses chosen by each group of respondents		355	85	259	699