

Afghanistan response

Following the scenes on the news, we share your sadness at the plight of Afghan refugees. As you know from previous newsletters, we work closely with West Sussex County Council and Horsham District Council to facilitate government schemes for such refugees, the most recent of which states the UK will take 5000 Afghan refugees in the first year and 20000 in total. In these schemes, the refugees have to register and be processed, then housing will need to be found in the UK before they are offered a place. Those who have already arrived will most likely be in hotels and other temporary arrangements near the airports until housing is found. Their clothing and hygiene needs will be met by the Home Office who supervise the schemes.

Vacant housing in our area is usually the biggest hold up but I have had a number of emails this week from locals offering their support. It may take time before we start to see arrivals locally and as such **we are not collecting any donations at this time.** We will keep you updated through our newsletter system and through our Facebook group as and when we have arrivals and needs to cater for.

You can join our Facebook group at:

facebook.com/groups/horshamrefugeesupportgroup

Other ways that you can help:

The West Sussex Independent Visitor Scheme is a befriending scheme for children and young people between the ages of 8 and 17 years old who are looked after by the local authority and who will not be returning home. For details please visit:

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/adoption-and-fostering/independent-visitor-scheme/>

Supported Lodging Scheme is an accommodation scheme for young people who need a secure and supportive environment in which to stay. As a Supported Lodgings carer, you will be giving them a helping hand towards independence. There is an assessment process and it takes around 3 months. For further details please visit:

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/adoption-and-fostering/supported-lodgings/>

Refugees at Home is a UK charity which connects those with a spare room in their home to refugees and asylum seekers in need of somewhere to stay. For details please visit: <https://www.refugeesathome.org/>

If you want to donate money to support Afghan refugees, the following reputable charities are helping asylum seekers & refugees and they all have an Afghan appeal:

<https://www.hummingbirdproject.org.uk/>

<https://www.migranthelpuk.org/>

<https://www.redcross.org.uk/get-help/find-missing-family> &

<https://www.redcross.org.uk/>

<https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/>

<https://www.unicef.org.uk/>

<https://www.rescue-uk.org/>