

Horsham Refugee Support Group



We are preparing to send you our Spring newsletter, but with the news coverage about Ukraine and a recent new arrival, we're sending out a quick newsflash today to update you. Our full newsletter will follow soon.

Ukraine

All of us are watching in horror as events unfold in Ukraine.

We understand how helpless it can feel, watching on and longing to do something to help. Like many organisations we work with, we are **not** organising aid collections at this time as we just don't know how it will get to the people we need it. We have recently received information about some local collections, so will find out more and contact you when we have news.

If you want to give something in this crisis, please consider a donation to the DEC. They are working on the ground in Ukraine and neighbouring countries. They are also supporting those who are left behind and starving in Afghanistan.

www.dec.org.uk

New arrival

This week, we met the most recent arrival to Horsham, a lovely family from Afghanistan. They have been waiting for a permanent placement in the county since they arrived in the UK seven months ago. They are a family of 5 with two boys, aged 10 and 8, a girl aged 5 and a new baby due next month. There are a number of ways this welcoming community can help them to settle into their new home here in Horsham:

- Dad is a qualified surgeon and very keen to get back into work as soon as he can. He speaks English fluently and has done a lot of research online but isn't sure how to get his qualifications recognised or retrain to work in the NHS.
If you work in this sector and know about this pathway, please contact us as we would love to speak to you for advice.
- We always ask every family if there is anything else we can seek to provide for them that is not provided within their government scheme. This family asked for:
spare duvets/blankets
a pressure cooker
a blender/juicer to make smoothies and mix spices
- The children have clothes and shoes but no toys. There is a small garden for outdoor play. We asked the children what they would like the most and they said:
a football
a robot
a remote controlled car
duplo

We would also like to provide:

age-appropriate toys for indoor and outdoor play (boys aged 8-10, girl age 5)
art supplies, paper, colouring book, sticker book etc.
dvds of u-rated children's films or programmes
dual language books in English and Pashto - please contact us for links
age-appropriate bikes for each child

- The parents told us that the children had a tablet at home and they enjoyed playing games on it and making videocalls to family members. The children keep asking if someone can post it to the UK from their home. We explained that it is unusual for us to receive donations of tablets, but we would ask the community.

If you would like to donate any of the above items, please contact our donation co-ordinators, Elisabeth and Jim, at donations@horshamrefugeesupportgroup.co.uk to tell us what you have available and arrange delivery.

If you would like to donate money for us to buy some of these items for the family, you can send a bank transfer to our NatWest account:

Sort Code: 60-11-17 Account Number: 24068209

Please mark your donation with the reference "Afghan family".

Many thanks for all your support. We will be in touch again soon.

Horsham Refugee Support Group