

NEWSLETTER

MAR'23



City of Sanctuary is a national organisation of support groups throughout the UK making their cities, towns, schools and organisations places of welcome and hospitality for people seeking safety from persecution and war. If you would like to volunteer with BCofS please email secretary.bbcos@gmail.com

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Welcome to the latest issue of the Barnsley City of Sanctuary newsletter! We hope you enjoy the contents and find something useful to help you.

The newsletter is produced by the Penistone Asylum Seekers and Refugees Support Group on behalf of the Barnsley City of Sanctuary. You can find out more about the Penistone Group in this edition (see page 20).

The purpose of this newsletter is to support those who are working with asylum seekers and refugees, to see what other services are available that you could refer people to. We also hope that the newsletter will help asylum seekers and refugees directly by providing details of where to get help. The newsletter can be translated using Google Translate – see inside for handy tips on translation (p17).

If you would like to send something to us for inclusion in a future issue of the newsletter, please email us on:

barnsleycityofsanctuary@gmail.com

Refugee Council - Here to Help!

Visit us at our office:

23 Queens Road, Barnsley, S71 1AN.

Open 10am–2pm Monday–Thursday

Tel: 01226 320111

Contacts:

Christina Grant

Project Manager & Community Development Worker

Email: christina.grant@RefugeeCouncil.org.uk

Jackie Wray

Asylum Advisor

Email: jackie.wray@RefugeeCouncil.org.uk

Khaled Alayoubi

Integration Officer

Email: khaled.alayoubi@RefugeeCouncil.org.uk

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Getting help
with the rising
cost of living



MORE MONEY IN YOUR POCKET

Are you having difficulties
due to the rising
cost of living?

Information
and support to
help with the
rising cost of
living

Visit
[barnsley.gov.uk/
more-money-in-
your-pocket](https://barnsley.gov.uk/more-money-in-your-pocket) or
scan the QR
code



Find out more about:



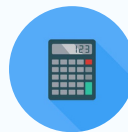
Housing
support



Support with
utility bills



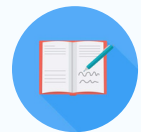
Food
support



Budgeting
support



Wellbeing
support



Employment
and skills



Current
support grants
and schemes



Support for
Berneslai
Homes tenants



Freebies and
money saving
ideas



MORE MONEY IN
YOUR POCKET



MORE MONEY IN
YOUR POCKET



Warm Spaces

Welcoming Spaces in Barnsley

Barnsley Council has developed a network of Welcoming Spaces in libraries, museums, family centres and Berneslai Homes buildings, which are available until 31 March 2023.

Lots of other organisations across Barnsley also provide this type of facility.

There's also more information on registering at www.warmwelcome.uk/faqs

All Welcoming Spaces operate within the following principles...



YOU'LL GET A WARM WELCOME

Every time you come to a Welcoming Space, you'll be given a warm welcome from the staff and volunteers there.

EVERYONE IS TREATED EQUALLY, WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT

Everyone has a right to be warm, so everyone in a Welcoming Space treats people, and is treated by people, with dignity and respect.

YOUR WELCOMING SPACE WILL BE A SAFE SPACE

Your Welcoming Space will stick to the safeguarding policies that it always uses, and it will stick to food hygiene rules too.

WE'LL NOT TELL ANYONE ABOUT YOU NEEDING A WELCOMING SPACE

If you want to share the reasons you need a Welcoming Space, someone will listen, but they won't tell anyone else unless you give them permission, or they must because of their safeguarding policies.

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHY YOU NEED A WELCOMING SPACE

Every Welcoming Space is a non-judgemental space; whatever the reason you have for needing to come in, you'll be treated the same and never judged.

All of Barnsley's Welcoming Spaces are registered on www.warmwelcome.uk/

If you are offering a Warm Space and have not yet registered on this website, please find out how to register at www.warmwelcome.uk/get-started/signup

Cost of Living

If you need energy advice - we can help!



Request an appointment
using our online contact form
<https://barnsleycab.org.uk/contact-us/>

Since April 2022,

Citizens Advice Barnsley has received funding to deliver energy training, information and advice to help local people cope with rising energy prices and the cost of living crisis.

Our energy training sessions have been delivered both online and face-to-face to community groups all over Barnsley, and we have encouraged lots of local people to take action to reduce their energy costs.

In these group sessions, we cover lots of top tips about how to save money and stay warm, as well as making sure people are aware of, and claiming all the council, government and charitable support they are entitled to.

Contact us if you want to arrange a training session for your group.



Did you know, Citizens Advice Barnsley can provide you with in-depth, one-to-one energy support over the phone?



If you live in Barnsley

and you're struggling to pay your gas or electricity bills, can't afford to top-up your pre-payment meter, or are having problems with your energy supplier - **we can help!**

Plus, if you have a gas appliance at home, we can also help you learn more about the potential dangers of Carbon Monoxide poisoning and claim your **FREE carbon monoxide detector.**

Appointments with our specialist energy adviser are available every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. To request an appointment - please complete our short online form:

<https://barnsleycab.org.uk/contact-us/>

Someone from our energy team will get in contact to arrange a convenient time for your appointment - this will usually be within 2 working days - but during busy periods it may take us a little longer for us to **get in touch.**

BIKES

Got a bike you want to give away? Need a bike?

Transport is a key issue for asylum seekers and refugees so the gift of a bike can make a huge difference, helping to open up new opportunities and make life that little bit brighter.

Now, thanks to the efforts of Alex Simon, a volunteer working with the Penistone Asylum Seekers and Refugees Support Group and the Refugee Council, bikes are being donated, refurbished and distributed to asylum seekers and refugees all over Barnsley.

It all started when Alex, who is a pastoral mentor for young people in his day job, attended a meeting of the Penistone Asylum Seekers and Refugees Support Group. Someone reported that a refugee had requested a bike. Alex had a bike in the shed and offered his services. It started a trend and now over 50 bikes have been recycled. For each one, Alex does an assessment, repairs anything that needs repairing, then other volunteers transport the refurbished bikes to the Refugee Council who co-ordinate requests.

A lot of the donated bikes barely need any repairs, as Alex explains: "Some are brand new. Most need brakes adjusting, cleaning up and perhaps a puncture repair. We get all sorts – from mountain bikes to children's bikes of all shapes and sizes."

Alex has been impressed by people's kindness: "I repair bikes in my street and as people go past, they see what I'm doing and they offer things like helmets and seats and all sorts. A lot of people round here have big hearts. A friend of mine who's a teacher has been sharing what we're doing in his area and acting as a co-ordinator passing on donations. Someone else from the Penistone Group who's a great mechanic has been doing more serious repairs, tackling the major jobs. It's great."

Alex is glad to use his skills to make a difference: "I met one man who took a bike. It provided him with freedom to be able to go and visit his friends, which made life a bit better. It's good for mental health as well as providing a means of getting about."



**Do you have a bike that you or your children no longer use?
Why not donate it to a good cause!
Contact alexsimon68@hotmail.com**

Accessing Foodbanks in Barnsley



Want to donate to the Barnsley Foodbank?

Barnsley Foodbank is based in Wombwell and has numerous donation drop-off points, including the local Tesco and Coop stores.

Donations can also be brought to Foodbank Hub, Unit 14, Aldham Industrial Estate, Wombwell, Barnsley S73 8HA.

Please donate! Donations are urgently needed as there has been a substantial drop off in recent weeks.

Need help from a Foodbank?

If you or someone you know needs help from a foodbank, there are a few simple steps to follow. The most important step is to get a foodbank voucher from an approved local agency. Vouchers can be obtained from:

- Citizens Advice
- Barnsley Family Service
- Local Schools
- Credit Union
- Housing Association
- Children's Centres
- Health Visitors
- GP Surgeries
- Housing Support Officers
- Family Services
- Local Charities
- Barnsley Social Services

To find out how to access or donate to the Barnsley Foodbank:
Visit: barnsley.foodbank.org.uk
or Tel: 01226 235280



FOOD HUBS

Storehouse & Field Community Food Hub

Storehouse & Field is an enhanced community food hub based in Shafton, Barnsley but available to anyone in Barnsley. You pay a monthly membership fee and this gives you access to quality food at a fraction of the prices of supermarkets. The hub also uses surplus food to reduce food waste.

- Save money •
- Reduce the weekly food bill •
- Reduce food waste •

There are different types of membership to suit your situation. Memberships are payable by direct debit or online card payments.

STANDARD

- £26 per month
- If you're a member for a year, that works out at £6 a week
- Average savings of £65 a month

FAMILY

- For households of 5 or more people
- £50 per month
- If you're a member for a year, that works out at £11.50 a week
- Average savings of £132 a month

PAY IT FORWARD

- £45 per month
- Average savings of £46 a month
- Each week, we have a range of foods for you to choose from, always including: Fruit & vegetables / Store cupboard essentials Chilled/ Dairy and dairy alternatives / Snacks / Breakfast / Frozen

In addition to great food, the hub also offers recipes, cookery demonstrations, community support and so much more...

Opening hours:

Wed 10am – 5pm & Fri 11am – 4pm

For more information,
visit: www.storehouseandfield.org

If you would like to become one of our stockists,
please contact us at:
hello@goodfoodbarnsley.org



South Yorkshire Refugee Law and Justice Service



South Yorkshire Refugee Law and Justice is a small charity based in the Sanctuary in Sheffield but providing free legal advice for people across South Yorkshire. We work with people who have been through the asylum system once and need help making further submissions to the Home Office. Our focus is on those who are destitute and need this help both to access Home Office accommodation and, hopefully, to help them obtain immigration status.

We provide full representation to anyone who becomes our client, ensuring that people understand all of the processes and are assisted in whatever way they need to make further representations.

We accept referrals to our info@syrlj.org.uk email address.

For more information, visit: www.syrlj.org.uk

We can pay travel expenses for any of our clients in South Yorkshire to attend our office. We also provide professional independent interpreters at our appointments for those who need them. In addition, we give one-off immigration legal advice monthly at the Victoria Hall drop-in.

Specialist Health Visitor for Asylum Seekers and Refugees

Barnsley 0-19 Public Health Nursing Service is made up of Specialist Community Public Health Nurses (SCPHN) who are registered nurses with specialist public health training. It also includes Child Development Practitioners and Staff Nurses.

The 0-19 team are service leaders of public health, person-centred care and are aware of the wider determinants of health. They deliver the healthy child programme which includes antenatal visit, birth and 6-8 week visits as well as development reviews when children reach the age of 8-12 months and 2-2.5 years.

Barnsley 0-19 service also has a responsibility to plan, implement and evaluate care at a community level offering health promotion, screening, and early intervention. Support includes general health concerns such as healthy eating, toileting and development concerns.

Andrew White is the Specialist Health Visitor who works within this team and specifically works with and supports Asylum Seekers and Refugees and Gypsy/Travellers

**To contact the team,
email: 0-19HealthTeam@barnsley.gov.uk**



M.U.M.



SUPPORT GROUP

MUMS UNDERSTAND MUMS

Are you Pregnant or a New Mum with a baby up to 6 months old?

Are you feeling

Low in Mood? Lonely / Isolated? Lacking in confidence?

Anxious about getting it “just” right?

Would you like to make new friends and share your experiences?
Would you like to talk in confidence to other like-minded mums with
the support of a Midwife?

Come and join us and see some of the things we do.....

- **Bonding with Bump**
- **Understanding anxieties, worries in a safe space**
- **Distraction techniques to reduce anxiety.**
- **Discussion on Birth Choice.**
- **Breathing Techniques/Mindfulness.**
- **Art therapy and many more.**

Every Monday (Excluding Bank Holidays Mondays) 10am-12pm

Venue Library@ Lightbox, Event Room Level 3.

1 The Glass Works Barnsley S70 1GW

Find out more by contacting

Yasmeen Akhtar Mental Wellbeing

Midwife: 07779445162 / 01226 432193

Refugee, Migrant and Asylum Seeker Women's Group

Come along to our women's group to meet new people, get help and advice, and take part in activities. Children welcome too.

Every Wednesday 10.00am – 12.00pm

Hope House Café
2 Blucher Street, Barnsley S70 1AP

What is available?

Craft activities, making things and learning new skills

Parties and celebrations on festival days

An ESOL class to learn English

Open discussions to practise English and share ideas

Talks on topics like health matters, how to keep safe, how to save money on bills, and lots more

Health advisors and other advisors who can help with a variety of issues

A free shop for clothes that have been requested and hygiene items

"We have women from lots of different cultures – both asylum seekers and refugees. It's a very informal, friendly group where women can share openly, get to know each other and find help for all sorts of concerns."

To join, please contact Chrissie Grant from the Refugee Council
Mobile: 07917 135843 or email: christina.grant@refugeecouncil.org.uk

Birth in Mind Service

This service is available for postnatal women who want to talk about their birth experience.

The sessions are run by a specialist midwife and are usually offered from 6-8 weeks postpartum (with no upper limit). If you are concerned about how a woman is feeling before this point, please contact us to discuss what support might be most helpful. Psychological support for women experiencing PTSD symptoms as a result of their child birth experience is provided by our integrated psychology team, referral will be completed by the specialist midwife following the initial appointment.

However eventful or complicated the birth may appear to professionals, given time the majority of women will make sense and meaning from the events with no psychological effect. It is important for women to recognise themselves if the birth was distressing or traumatic.

REFERRAL CRITERIA FOR POSTNATAL WOMEN WHO:

- birthed their baby in Barnsley
- want to talk about their birth experience, fill in gaps and make sense of events
- are showing signs of emotional distress as a result of their birth experience, beyond the normal emotional response to childbirth

WOMEN ARE ENCOURAGED TO SELF-REFER INTO THE BIRTH IN MIND SERVICE, BUT REFERRALS CAN ALSO BE MADE BY A HEALTH/SOCIAL CARE PROFESSIONAL.

Referrals can be made by:

E-mail: bdg-tr.birthinmindservice@nhs.net

Telephone: **01226 436340** (voicemail service)

Work mobile: **07775800557** (ring or text)

QR code: scan the QR code to open a referral link



PLEASE INCLUDE:

- Woman's name, hospital / NHS number, date of birth & contact number
- Date baby was birthed
- Reason for referral – brief summary
- Your name and contact details (if not self-referral)

PLEASE NOTE: WOMEN WILL BE CONTACTED WITHIN 2 WEEKS OF REFERRAL AND USUALLY SEEN FROM 6-8 WEEKS POSTPARTUM.

Offering Sanctuary – stories of Ukrainian Refugees

From Mariupol to Barnsley via Kyiv



<http://pixbk.com/images/flying-ukrainian-flag>

To lose a home is heart-breaking, but Olga, Dmytro and their son Ilya, lost their home twice.

This was made all the more terrifying as Ilya has additional needs. Originally from Donetsk in Eastern Ukraine, the war with Russia forced the family to move to Mariupol, but soon the war caught up with them again and their apartment in Mariupol was destroyed.

They fled to Kyiv where they stayed for six months, but Ilya found the bombs flying overhead too much to bear. Olga and Dmytro knew they had to find a safe home for him. They were put in touch with Rosanne, also a mother of children with additional needs.

Through the UK's Homes for Ukraine scheme, they moved to Barnsley to live with Rosanne and her family for six months.

Olga says, "England is a beautiful country, wonderful nature, wonderful people, very kind, very polite. People are ready to help."

Dmytro adds, "I'm surprised that in England such kind and open people are ready to help, but we are faced with a very strong bureaucracy. Rosanne helps people to understand our problems and overcome this."

Now they are moving to their own rented home nearby. Olga continues to work online as head of department in a Ukrainian insurance company whilst Dmytro is a full-time carer for Ilya. Asked if they want to stay in the UK, Dmytro says, "We want to go home but I don't know where our home is now, because our house has been absolutely destroyed, so now we're here.

We are missing Ukraine, but we must look for next steps here. We want to say a huge thank you to Rosanne. She always helps us."

The experience of a host – Rosanne tells her story

"There's so much evil in this world, so many wars that shouldn't be, but this one felt so close to home. When the Homes for Ukraine scheme was announced, there was a way that we could do something positive and hopefully make a difference.

My husband is ex-army and he said, 'I've seen the impact of war, and this is something we need to do.'"

But the decision wasn't easy. With a family of four children, Rosanne wanted to make sure everyone bought into the idea: "My two oldest girls no longer live here, but this is still their family home – and we have two sons that live with us aged 17 and 12 who both have additional needs. They all had to be part of the decision. My youngest boy is autistic with ADHD and he didn't really know much about the war, so to broach it I showed him some News Round clips, and one was of Polish families taking in Ukrainians early on in the war. My son turned to me and his automatic response was, 'We need to do that, Mummy, can we do that, can we help?'. It showed me that humanity wins out."

Like many would-be hosts, Rosanne turned to Facebook, but waited for the right opportunity. Eventually she saw a post asking if anyone would be prepared to take someone with special educational needs and no one had replied. "I asked for more information. A few days later the woman got back to me and gave me Olga's number. I messaged her, and there's been no looking back."



Rosanne and Ged

Offering Sanctuary – stories of Ukrainian Refugees

From Mariupol to Barnsley via Kyiv



<http://pixl.com/images/flying-ukrainian-flag>



That was back in April, and Olga and her husband Dmytro and their adult son Ilya eventually arrived in Barnsley in July. The three months in-between gave a valuable opportunity to get to know each other. Rosanne says, "I needed to be sure that we had a good chance of making it work, to be fair to everyone. We messaged every day, shared photos and developed a friendship. In the meantime, there was

also a lot for us to do here, preparing the house and scouring forums to find out what we would need to do when they arrived. We contacted Barnsley Council who sent us a checklist."

When the family arrived, it took a while to adjust and find a good way of living together. Dmytro, Olga and Ilya have their own space in their two rooms. They spend a lot of time there although they are welcome to use the rest of the house. Both families have different mealtimes, but sometimes have meals together. Twice a week, Rosanne bakes and Olga, Dmytro and Ilya join in over a cup of tea. Rosanne says, "We've found our balance between having some time together and living our independent lives." She adds, "You need to be open minded and accept that any family coming to stay with you will be grateful, but they've encountered things that you haven't and they have a different cultural background. You've got to have mutual respect to make it work."

The hardest part has been the paperwork. Rosanne has spent hours on the phone helping the family to negotiate bureaucracy. She says, "To start with, when I was waiting an hour and a half on the phone, Olga and Dmytro thought there must be a problem with the line,

so I had to explain that, no, this is how it is in England, we queue!"

Rosanne, who runs a support group for parents whose children have additional needs, knew immediately that Ilya needed a Personal Independence Payment, but it took three attempts to submit a claim. Each time the form was not sent out or lost when it was submitted. On the third attempt Rosanne made an official complaint and still received no response, so she approached her MP and eventually her complaint was upheld. After five months, Ilya received his first payment.

Rosanne reflects, "The Homes for Ukraine Scheme was actually a good idea, but I don't think the measures required to support the Ukrainians have been implemented appropriately. There hasn't been enough information from the Home Office, or enough support locally. You have to know what you need to ask to be able to find anything out. I've had to provide a lot of support which I couldn't have done if I'd been working full time."

Olga and Dmytro have been attending college learning English since September. Initially they struggled to find an ESOL course they could get to. Rosanne explains, "They're working so hard to improve their English to give themselves better prospects, for Olga to get a job here. It's very important to them to be able to contribute to society and not be a burden."

On 18th January, both families celebrated six months together and marked their friendship with cake and wine. Soon Olga, Dmytro and Ilya will be moving to a nearby rented property. Rosanne says, "We've been lucky, we have a lot in common. I would advise anyone thinking of hosting, really think about it, do your homework, speak to those who have hosted already, understand what you are and are not prepared to do. "It's been a very humbling experience for me. It's been a blessing, because we've had that mutual respect from day one and that desire to accept each other as individuals."

Offering Sanctuary – stories of Ukrainian Refugees From Kharkiv to Barnsley via Russia, Estonia, Latvia and Poland



<http://pixbk.com/images/flying-ukrainian-flag>

When the war in Ukraine broke out it took time for Olga and her family to organise themselves. However, it soon became apparent that it was not safe to stay so Olga, her daughter and son-in-law and her two grandchildren all left Kharkiv to stay with relatives in Russia.

They assumed the war would last just a few weeks and they would return home to Kharkiv, but then they found themselves stuck. They could not leave Russia and were living very precariously. Eventually they escaped in the summer after two attempts. They had to cross Russia and go through the Baltic States, eventually arriving in Poland. The family are now living on a farm on the edge of a small village. On the way there another grandchild arrived. With very little space and opportunity, Olga and the family decided she should seek sanctuary elsewhere. She arrived in the UK in early October '22 and now lives on the outskirts of Barnsley with host Clive. As a senior accountant in her job before the conflict, she is looking at opportunities here and is working hard to improve her English.

Perhaps not surprising the thing that Olga has found most difficult and frustrating to deal with is the lack of English as this creates barriers towards almost everything else. Although she has travelled before,



she notes that there is a substantial difference between being a traveller/tourist and refugee.

These are perceived very differently by everyone and the experiences of the two roles are different – the tourist is welcomed and usually happy to be travelling, while a refugee feels stressed and uncertain and is often viewed with suspicion. On a more positive note, she takes a deep interest in the area where she lives and in the surrounding towns and cities: "I am getting acquainted with the British way of life and learning to interact in this country". She wishes to add a note of gratitude

to all the people – friends and strangers - who have helped her.

The experience of a host – Clive tells his story

Clive signed up for the Homes for Ukraine scheme as soon as it was launched. He already had contacts in Ukraine through his professional life as a teacher of English, working with universities to prepare students for study in the UK. He immediately got in touch with those Ukrainians he had details for and although they did not want to leave or could not, they knew of others who did. Clive soon found himself sponsoring three individuals to leave Ukraine and come to the UK. One decided to go to Germany and two successfully reached the UK and are now in Barnsley.

Offering Sanctuary – stories of Ukrainian Refugees From Kharkiv to Barnsley via Russia, Estonia, Latvia and Poland



Sponsoring meant filling in forms, as Clive comments: "The worst part is the bureaucracy, and it really is difficult. The host fills in a form which is very simple and easy, but the guest must fill in a form [written in English] which is much more complex. Even as an English speaker, I had difficulty understanding the form! Sometimes it was not clear if the questions were for the guest or the host."

Olga had never travelled internationally on her own, so the journey across was a big step. She came via Warsaw to Manchester where Clive and another volunteer collected her.

The first few weeks were full of bureaucracy, as Clive explains, "Registering with a doctor and a dentist were relatively simple but getting a bank account took time. Week after week after week of attending appointments, going to one place after another, sometimes doing the same things as you'd done before. Getting registered with the DWP was probably one of the most lengthy processes and we're still waiting for a Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) card from the UKVI without which Olga cannot stay."

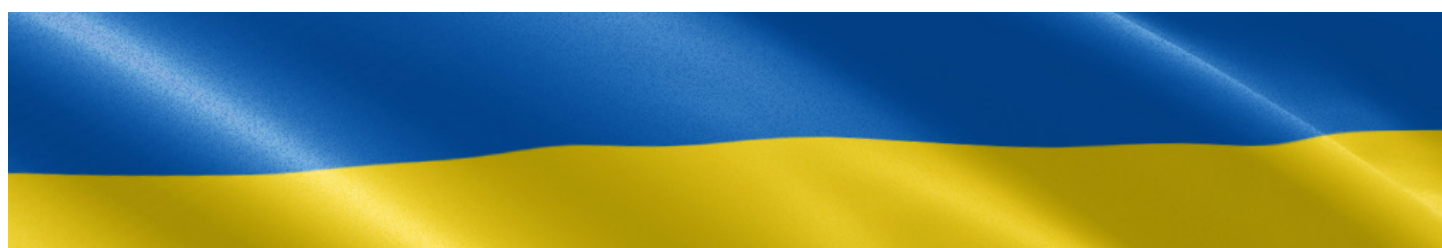


Clive and Olga

It has required a lot of Clive's time. As Olga is still learning English, she needs a lot of support. She uses an online course to learn English, which she started before arriving here. Olga attends an ESOL class at the Women's Refugee Group in Barnsley which meets every Wednesday at 10am in Hope Church Community Centre and also has a one-to-one teacher once each week. When not learning English, Olga spends time online

with her family in Poland and likes walking in the local area.

Clive comments that would-be hosts need to be aware of cultural differences: "It sounds so obvious, but they can lead to your undoing. Many differences can be brushed off as being 'we do xyz this way, you do it that way' and it is seen as a relatively minor thing. However, some differences are the difference between acceptable behaviour and bad manners or even worse. And it can work both ways. On more than one occasion, Olga has been quite shocked by my behaviour and that of others. An unlimited supply of tolerance and patience is needed. Expect mistakes."



Schools of Sanctuary



“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

Nelson Mandela

Schools play a crucial role in helping young people to make sense of the world, to become responsible citizens and to create positive change in their communities. They are often at the forefront of receiving and supporting those who are seeking refuge in the UK.

Schools of Sanctuary is a nationwide movement to create a culture of welcome and to support thousands of young people who come and live in the UK in search of safety, helping to raise awareness of refugee-related issues through education. Barnsley now has two pilot Schools of Sanctuary:

WORSBOROUGH COMMON SCHOOL
ST JOHN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL, PENISTONE

If you are interested in finding out more about the Schools of Sanctuary movement, visit:

<https://schools.cityofsanctuary.org/about>

You can find a useful resource pack with lots more information on how to become a School of Sanctuary [here](#).

<https://cdn.cityofsanctuary.org/uploads/sites/159/2021/11/Schools-of-Sanctuary-Resource-Pack.pdf>



TIPS FOR TRANSLATION

For online translation, one of the most popular translation tools is Google Translate:

<https://translate.google.co.uk>

There are other free apps for online translation as well, like Microsoft Translator.

There are also free plugins for WhatsApp where you can set the target language you want, you then type in a message in English and it automatically translates to the target language, or vice versa. You can start by searching for the popular LangLang App on Google Play.

Say Hi Translate (available on Google Play) allows you to have a conversation in two languages and hear your voice translated instantly.

DeepL (available on Google Play) translates text, speech, images and files in 29 languages and is said to be quite accurate.

SNIPPETS

New Arrivals

Welcome to Lucy Ramsden, the new Hate Crime Coordinator for Barnsley – part of the Safer Neighbourhood Services Hub in South Yorkshire Police.

Tel: 01226 736372

Mobile: 07464985266

Email: lucy.ramsden@southyorks.pnn.police.uk

Welcome as well to Andrew Barnaby, the newly appointed Prevent Officer at Barnsley Council

Email: andrewbarnaby@barnsley.gov.uk

Voting in the May elections

Refugees and economic migrants who have been awarded British citizenships can vote in elections. The local elections are coming up in May. If you intend to vote in person, you will now need to show a photo ID. Accepted forms of photo ID include a UK, European Economic Area (EEA) or Commonwealth passport; a UK or EEA drivers' licence; and some concessionary travel passes, such as an older person's bus pass. You can find the full list of accepted forms of photo ID on the Electoral Commission website. You will be able to use expired ID if you are still recognisable from the photo.

If you haven't got one of the accepted forms of photo ID, you can apply for a free voter ID (Voter Authority Certificate) online on the government's website or by completing a paper form. Please apply well in advance for a Voter Authority Certificate before the deadline on Tuesday, 25 April 2023.

Find out more: <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voter-id>



<https://www.migranthehelpuk.org>

Migrant Help is a charity that offers advice and guidance to those seeking asylum in the UK. They are the primary contractors for the government's Advice, Issue Reporting and Eligibility Contract (AIRE) for giving advice and assistance to people seeking asylum across the UK.

Please report all asylum support issues, accommodation, maintenance problems, relocation requests, ASPEN card issues and maternity payments to Migrant Help on their free asylum helpline: **0808 8010 503**

Initial accommodation queries

Freephone Regional IA contact: 0808 801 0328
Monday to Friday: 10am – 1pm
Email: iaAdminWakefield@migranthehelpuk.org
Self-service portal including web chat and 'raise an issue' function: <https://ellis.custhelp.com>

Asylum Services information

<https://www.migranthehelpuk.org/Pages/Category/asylum>

Specific email contacts

For outreach: **outreach@migranthehelpuk.org**
For (once granted status): **positivemoveon@migranthehelpuk.org**
For any change of circumstances for S.95 service users: **coc@migranthehelpuk.org**
For any initial accommodation section S.98 request: **S98@migranthehelpuk.org**
For copy of support decision letter: **CopySupportDecisions@migranthehelpuk.org**
For complaints against Migrant Help: **complaints@migranthehelpuk.org**

If you are a third party organisation and wish to contact Migrant Help on behalf of an asylum seeker, please complete a signed consent form:

https://ellis.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/326

If you have used Migrant Help's Asylum Services, please provide feedback using the forms on this web page:

<https://www.migranthehelpuk.org/as-feedback>



Community Highlights!

ELSH: Education, Support and Learning Hub

ELSH's mission is to provide a positive, safe and stimulating environment for young parents, young adults not engaging in education or training, asylum seekers, refugees and migrants. The aim of ELSH is to help people enjoy their learning, achieve their potential and interact socially.

Free learning opportunities at Entry Level, Level 1, Level 2 and 3 ESOL (English to Speakers of Other Languages)and basic maths, English and IT skills

Please contact Florentine on 01226 643249 for further information

PHOTOS



QUOTES

'ELSH was a great place to volunteer! I met a lot of people from diverse countries and backgrounds who are keen and willing to progress'

'ELSH is an amazing charity to work with. They have provided support and excellent training for students at Barnsley College'

Central
Area Team

About the Penistone Asylum Seekers and Refugees Support Group

Many asylum seekers and refugees – both families and individuals – arrive with very little by way of personal possessions and their requirements are for the essentials of life. We have supplied clothing, including many warm coats and shoes for adults and children. We have ensured a regular supply of hygiene items is made available and these have been so important to people who have £45 each week to meet their needs. The group has also received an increasing request for books and toys for families with older children being settled in Barnsley.

The Penistone Asylum Seekers and Refugees Support Group began in October 2017 following a 'Big Conversation about Asylum Seekers' event organised by Penistone Churches Together. The Group aims to offer 'empathy with action'.

It works in close partnership with local service providers to facilitate action that responds to the identified needs of asylum seekers and refugees living in the Borough of Barnsley. Here Gina, a member of the group, describes what kind of things the group has been doing.

We have always sought to meet specific and particular needs, working with the St Vincent de Paul Society and Churches Against Poverty. Bicycles, sewing machines, prams, cots, kitchen equipment, beds, furniture and many other items have been readily and generously supplied by our local community.



About the Penistone Asylum Seekers and Refugees Support Group continued...

We have worked closely with the Special Health Visitor in Barnsley (see page 8) who has really appreciated the speed with which items appear for his clients. Penistone volunteers worked with the Refugee Council and other front line workers to establish a social group for women and their children and a group for men.

The women's group has really taken off, meeting every **Wednesday** at the **Hope Community Café** (see page 10). Our volunteers have also supported **Conversation Clubs** in the **Central Library in Barnsley** – like the current **Monday morning Conversation Café** from **10.00 – 11.30am**.

The Penistone group works in partnership with the Barnsley City of Sanctuary to produce this newsletter which provides newcomers and front-line workers with useful and important information about local services and opportunities.

We have organised a number of trips to local venues such as the Wentworth Castle, the Yorkshire Sculpture Park, the RSPB sanctuary

at Old Moor and an amazing trip to Cleethorpes. It has been wonderful to hear the comments of the families who have enjoyed being able to get out and have a different experience of Yorkshire.

The Penistone Town Council and the Penistone Paramount Cinema have come up trumps with tickets for visits to the cinema.

Many parents have thanked us for helping to replace the bad memories their children have with happy memories. The families do not have money to afford trips.

People whom we meet are not here to make a better life, but a life free of the threats, real danger and oppression which they have experienced in their homelands.

We have met with people who have been imprisoned for their beliefs, people whose families have been killed for simply trying to speak the truth. Many of the stories that we have heard are beyond belief.

The importance of offering support in practical and tangible ways can never be denied or understated. It is a matter of regret that it is still needed.



USEFUL CONTACTS

Adult Learning Services

Floor 2, Wellington House, Market St, Barnsley, S70 1WA

Tel: 01226 775270/775271

Email: adultlearning@barnsley.gov.uk

Website: www.barnsley.gov.uk/adultlearning

Barnsley Borough City of Sanctuary

Email: secretary.bbcos@gmail.com

Website: <https://barnsley.cityofsanctuary.org>

Barnsley Foodbank Partnership

Unit 14 Aldham Industrial Estate, Wombwell, Barnsley, S73 8HA

Tel: 01226 235280

Email: manager@barnsley.foodbank.org.uk

Website: <https://barnsley.foodbank.org.uk>

Barnsley Health Integration Team

170a Sheffield Road, Barnsley S70 4NW

Tel: 01226 731686

Barnsley Refugee Integration Service (BRIS)

Tel: 01226 787602

Mobile: 07775 033443, 07795 389596

Email: adviceservices@barnsley.gov.uk

Citizens Advice Barnsley

Guidance and advice on debt, employment, housing, benefits, tax credits and immigration issues

1 Wellington House, 36 Wellington Street, Barnsley S70 1WA

Call: Freephone 0800 144 88 48

Website: <https://barnsleycab.org.uk/>

Education Learning Support Hub (ELSH)

Providing learning to help adults not in education, employment or training, asylum seekers, refugees and migrants.

5 Warren Quarry Lane, Barnsley S70 4NF

Tel: 01226 643249

Website: www.elshub.org.uk

Emergencies – Health

If you think you have a life-threatening illness or injury, phone 999 and ask for an ambulance.

In a non-emergency, phone 111.

Emergencies – Crime

For emergencies, phone 999 and ask for the Police.

In a non-emergency, phone 101.

USEFUL CONTACTS CONTINUED

Feels Like Home

An opportunity to practise English with friends and discover Barnsley and the UK
Barnsley Museums Learning Lab, Town Hall, S70 2TA

Call/text: Joanna: 07873 655035

Email: feelslikehome@barnsley.gov.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Feels-Like-Home-100877908934396

Hate Crime

To report hate crimes, call: 101 or 999 in an emergency

If you are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired
you can textphone 18001 101 or SMS 07786 220 022.

Visit: southyorks.police.uk/hatehurts

IDAS

For those experiencing or affected by domestic violence or sexual abuse.

Tel: 03000 110 110

Email: info@idas.org.uk Website: www.idas.org.uk

Live Well Barnsley

For information on health care and support services, Visit: www.livewellbarnsley.co.uk

Migrant Help

Help with housing, accommodation, maintenance, ASPEN cards and relocation.

Tel: 08088 010503 - Website: www.migranthelpuk.org

Migrant Information Hub for Covid-19 resources

Website: www.migrantinfohub.org.uk

Migration Partnership Barnsley

A collaboration of Migrant Action, Feels Like Home, The Polish Library and ELSH to support collaborative service delivery and better access to holistic service provision.

Email: migrationpartnershipbarnsley@gmail.com

Website: <https://migrantaction.org.uk/the-migration-partnership-barnsley-mpb/>

Refugee Council

Address: 23 Queen's Road, Barnsley S71 1AN (open Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday 10am -5pm)

The Advice Workers can be contacted on 01226 320111 or 07917 135843

Refugee, Migrant & Asylum Seeker Men's Group

Meets at: Refugee Council, BCVS Building, 23 Queens Road, Barnsley S71 1AN

Every Tuesday 12pm – 2pm

Call Christina: 07917 135843

Refugee, Migrant & Asylum Seeker Women's Group

Meets at: Hope House Community Café, 2 Blucher Street, Barnsley S70 1AP

Every Wednesday 10am – 12pm

Call Christina: 07917 135843

Useful definitions



Asylum Seeker

Someone who has left their country of origin owing to fear of persecution, who is seeking a place of safety and has formally applied for asylum in another country, but whose application has not yet been concluded.

Refugee

Someone whose claim for asylum has been accepted by the government.

Economic migrant

Someone who has moved to another country to work.

Barnsley Borough City of Sanctuary is part of a national movement to build a culture of welcome for people seeking sanctuary in the UK.

Our open steering group meets on the **first Wednesday of the month at 5pm**, usually at **Barnsley Town Hall**.



for more information contact
secretary.bbcos@gmail.com

www.barnsley.cityofsanctuary.org