

NEWSLETTER

JULY '23



Barnsley
City of Sanctuary

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

Welcome to the summer '23 edition of the Barnsley Borough City of Sanctuary newsletter!

Designed to bring together information about all sorts of services and support available for asylum seekers and refugees in Barnsley, the newsletter comes out three times a year and is open for contributions from any groups who are working with asylum seekers and refugees.

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

secretary.bbcos@gmail.com

Thank you!



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The Refugee Council -

The Refugee Council is a national independent charity that works across the country to support refugees and asylum seekers. The National Refugee Council leads the Barnsley Refugee Council. The Barnsley Refugee Council has funding to work in Barnsley, offering support to Asylum Seekers and Refugees living in the town, for the next five years.

The aim of the Barnsley Project are...

Making Barnsley more Refugee friendly.

Delivering a direct one to one advice service to refugees and asylum seekers living in Barnsley.

Training for organisations that provide front-line service to refugees and asylum seekers living in Barnsley

Community development; enabling organisations to deliver services that meet the needs of refugees and asylum seekers living in Barnsley.

Visit Our New Office!

Wellington House
36 Wellington Street
Barnsley S70 1WA
01226 320111

The office is open

Mon / Tue / Wed / Thur - 10.00am - 2.00pm

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What is... City of Sanctuary ...?

www.cityofsanctuary.org.uk

City of Sanctuary UK is a network of groups who support people seeking sanctuary. These include community groups, local authorities and schools, libraries, museums, universities and even railway stations of sanctuary!

Barnsley Borough City of Sanctuary welcomes people of all backgrounds. We are committed to equality, building friendship and solidarity between people living in receiving communities and people seeking sanctuary. We work collaboratively with other local organisations who support asylum seekers, migrants and refugees.

We aim to:

- Support people seeking sanctuary
- Communicate a positive vision of welcome by countering negative rhetoric and celebrating the contribution of people seeking sanctuary
- Promote wider understanding of asylum and refugee issues
- Build support for campaigns which aim to make a difference to the lives of people seeking sanctuary.

Over the last year we have pursued our aims in many ways including:

- November 2022: we collaborated with the Refugee Council and Barnsley Stand up to Racism to organise a well-attended conference, "Barnsley Welcomes Refugees".
- Refugee Week: arts competition for school pupils. In 2022 the theme was "Welcome". This year's theme is "Let Us Remember", to commemorate the tragic deaths of at least 27 people in the Channel in November 2021. The Mayor presented prizes to winners during Refugee Week and entries are on display in Experience Barnsley.
- Successful funding bids have enabled us to help many people seeking sanctuary financially with transport costs, food vouchers and essential household items.
- We work with Care4Calais to distribute clothing for asylum seekers placed in hotels close to Barnsley and have made donations to provide items such as shoes and underwear.
- We created a "Useful Information" poster which is now displayed in all asylum housing in Barnsley.
- We hope to see the first local School of Sanctuary soon and are delighted that Barnsley Libraries of Sanctuary is about to be established.
- We are currently involved in discussion with Barnsley MBC which we hope will lead to the Council declaring itself a local authority of sanctuary.
- We help to fund this newsletter!

Our monthly meetings are open to all.
For details, please contact us on
secretary.BBCoS@gmail.com





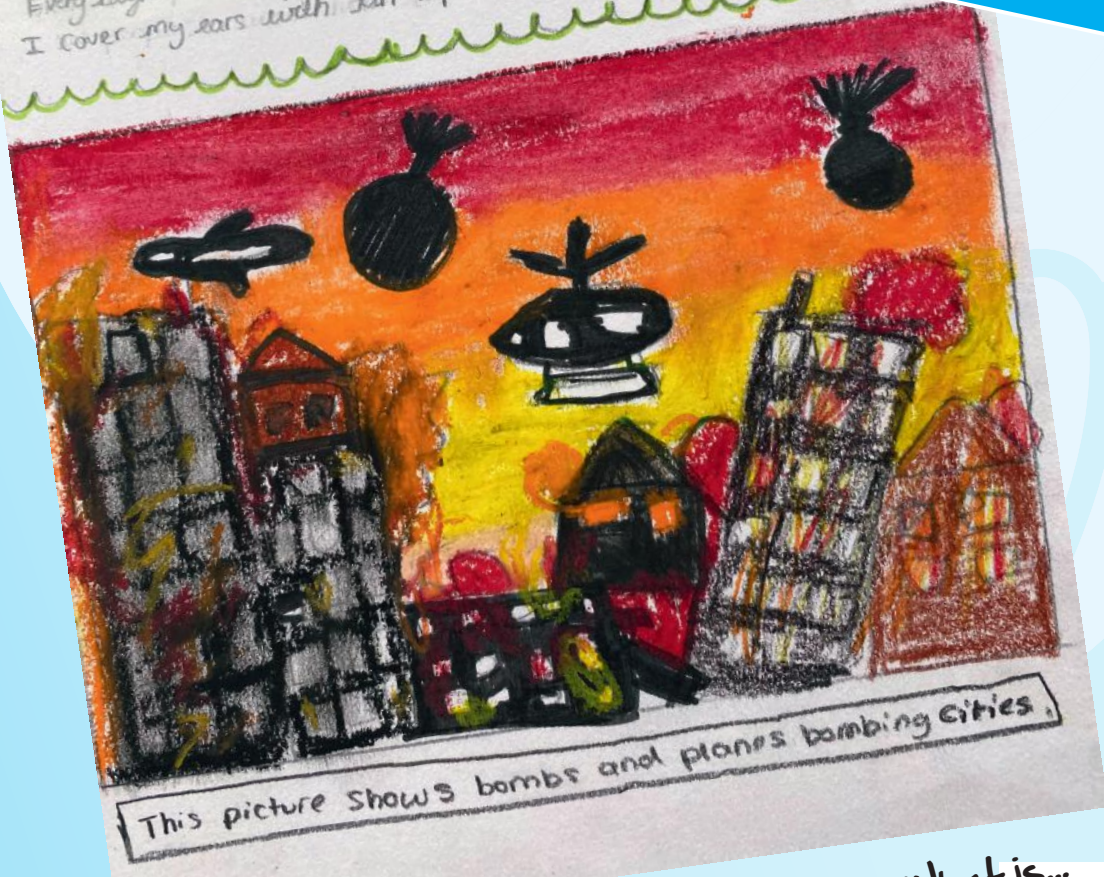
Photo from the "Barnsley Welcomes Refugees" Conference November 2022

BOMBING THE INNOCENT

I remember sitting on my bed at night
 Thinking will I make this out alive.
 I wonder and wonder about my dad in war,
 What if he's injured what if more.
 Every night I hear the bombs being planted on town
 I cover my ears with an upset frown.

"I remember sitting on my bed at night,
 Thinking will I make this out alive.
 I wonder and wonder about my dad in war,
 What if he's injured, what if more.
 Every night I hear the bombs being planted on town.
 I cover my ears with an upset frown."

Picture and poem from the
 School Arts Competition 2023
 supported by the
 Barnsley Borough City of Sanctuary.



This picture shows bombs and planes bombing cities.

A Library of Sanctuary in Barnsley

Public libraries play an important role in welcoming refugees and people seeking sanctuary in local communities. Libraries of Sanctuary is a network of librarians, library staff, community groups and book lovers who are raising awareness of the issues facing people in the asylum system, offering support and participation opportunities, and contributing to a culture of welcome in the wider community.

Emma Tweed, Engagement Officer at Barnsley Libraries, writes:

Barnsley Libraries is currently working towards getting its "Libraries of Sanctuary Award". Libraries in their nature are warm welcoming places that strive to be accessible to all, but as part of our work to gain the award, we've been looking at ways to improve our services to make them even more welcoming and inclusive to those seeking sanctuary.

We already host a Conversation Café every Monday at 10am at the Library@theLightbox which is open to everyone to come and practise their English and meet new people (see Page 6). We have foreign language books, e-newspapers in different languages and a variety of free children's and adults' activities. We celebrated Refugee Week this year by inviting a samba band into the library on the 22nd June and promoting books exploring themes of seeking sanctuary in our libraries.

In 2022 we released a book called "Stories From Around the World" which was created in collaboration with Feels Like Home. Members of Feels Like Home shared nursery rhymes and fairy tales from their countries and songs in their first language, which were then presented in the book alongside English translations. The multi-lingual book includes stories, rhymes and songs in 11 languages and is available at all Barnsley Libraries branches and through the online resources.

You can also read a digital version of the book on our website:

<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/media/22826/stories-from-around-the-world-book.pdf>

We're looking at ways we can build on what we already offer to people seeking sanctuary and working towards the Libraries of Sanctuary Award gives us the framework to do this.



Pictures created by school children for the School Arts Competition 2023 supported by the Barnsley Borough City of Sanctuary.



Monday Means Conversation!

A Conversation Café has been open in the Central Library in Barnsley, Library@theLightbox, for a number of years and it has provided a safe space where people from different home countries and with varied cultural backgrounds can meet to chat and feel more confident in their use of spoken English. The Café meets each Monday at 10am for a couple of hours in The Lighthouse and is supported by a number of volunteers drawn mainly from the Penistone Refugee and Asylum Seekers Support Group.

Each week we choose a different topic to focus our conversation on and this year we have talked about books, music, great painters, the environment and, always a favourite, food. What we have found is that, to quote Jo Cox, the former MP for Batley and Spen, "there is more that unites us than divides us".

But, what do our friends have to say about the Conversation Café?

Narin says that, "It helps me to learn about English culture, for instance your food. It helps me to get to know people and say hello to them on the street. It improves my sense of belonging. You can talk in English".

Iryna says, "The Conversation Café gives me the chance to explore culture, local interesting things and to know more about the place where I live. It not only gives me a chance to develop my spoken English, but to develop my individuality".

"The Conversation Café is people from different cultures talking about shared experiences" said Bryony, who is one of the volunteers.

A couple of the regular members shared that, "I'm talking, speaking and learning English every week" and, "It's a very good experience to learn different cultures and an opportunity to meet new people".

Perhaps Gill (one of our volunteers) best expressed the purpose and value of the Conversation Café when she said, "It is lovely to see newcomers begin to bloom and grow in confidence".

Who would have thought that chatting in Barnsley could achieve so much!
To join, just turn up at Library@TheLightbox at 10am on Monday mornings.

Out & About :)

Are you an asylum seeker or refugee? You are warmly invited to join these summer activities

Trip to Cleethorpes

Wednesday 2nd August - 9.30am - 5pm

Contact: christina.grant@RefugeeCouncil.org.uk

Bike ride on the Trans Pennine Trail

From Silkstone Common to Wigfield Farm

Saturday 19th August - Leaving Silkstone Common at 10.30am - Contact: alexsimon68@hotmail.com

Picnic in the Park at Locke Park

Saturday 26th August - Contact: christina.grant@RefugeeCouncil.org.uk





Did you know that there is a bike scheme run by volunteer Alex Simon to refurbish and distribute second-hand bikes to asylum seekers and refugees all over Barnsley? The scheme is supported by the Penistone Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support Group and works in collaboration with the Refugee Council to identify people who need bikes. So far over 80 bikes have been recycled and feedback shows what a huge difference they are making.

"I would like to thank Refugee council and Penistone Group for providing me the bicycle which save my time and granted me the ability to spend more time outdoor by cycling to the park and make transportation easier to explore Barnsley and its country side. The bicycle keeps me fit".
Young Ukrainian refugee

"I live far from the centre. I use the bicycle for commuting and shopping. I love exercising by cycling around Barnsley. I found more time to visit my friends in Barnsley using the Bicycle. Now I am doing more outdoor activity feeling more healthier now".
Sudanese Refugee

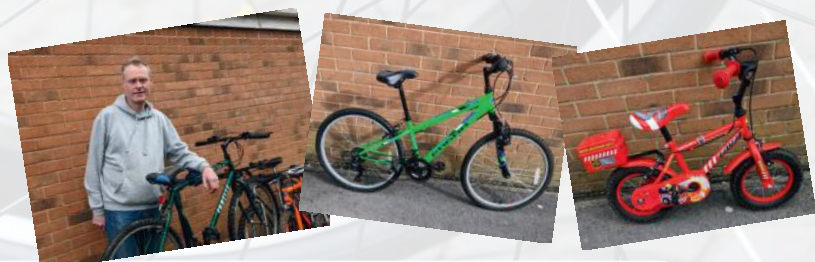
"The bike saved my time and travel expenses and made life easier for myself as a asylum seeker with very limited financial support . My children are happy with the small bike. They are happy and enjoy cycling at the Park. Thank you for giving me the Bicycles".
Sudanese Asylum seeker

An Iranian family, who were early recipients of bikes for their son and daughter, use the bikes to travel to their respective colleges. The daughter has been doing A levels and is an outstanding student. She plans to go to university to study medicine and become a surgeon. The son was studying to become a pilot so is pursuing this ambition in the UK now.

The Eritrean community have received a lot of bikes. For example:

- A single mum with one child who go to school on the bikes, cutting the cost of travel to zero, which is great saving when they are on a limited budget.
- A husband and wife who use them to go out on their days off from work for social and recreational purposes. This helps with their mental health in particular
- H who enjoys the outdoors to help deal with PMT following his horrendous journey to the UK to seek asylum.

The freedom and independence the bikes have offered them has been really appreciated.



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



Education Feature

ESOL Classes at the Women's Group



At Hope English School, we are delighted to be continuing our English Classes in Barnsley in partnership with the Penistone Refugee and Asylum Seekers Support Group. The classes take place at the Women's Group for Refugees, Migrants and Asylum Seekers which meets every Wednesday morning at Hope House Café. We started the group in March 2022 and since then it has gone from strength to strength, with women from a diverse range of backgrounds taking the opportunity to improve their English, make friends and share their cultural traditions in a safe and welcoming environment.

Over the past few months, a number of Ukrainian women have joined the group, and they have been warmly welcomed and supported. The women enjoy learning about practical topics for adapting to life in a new country as well as talking together and using games and songs to enhance their learning. Feedback has been extremely positive, and it is great to see the women gaining in confidence and being able to access further courses, training and jobs.

We hope to continue the classes into the future to enable as many women as possible to benefit from an informal yet structured approach to learning which prepares them for the everyday challenges they face and gives them the motivation to improve their English, meet new people and have fun!



Fran Hall, Teacher, Hope English School, at an ESOL class in the Women's Asylum Seeker and Refugee Group

Adult Skills and Community Learning

Our ESOL courses will help you improve your ability to talk, listen, read and write in English in friendly and supportive classes with other adults. Whether you want to improve your English to help children with homework, to play a fuller role in your local community, to access services or for work, our experienced teachers will find the help you find the course for you. You can study at a range of levels from beginners (pre-entry) up to Level 2. You can take exams to add certificates to your CV.

Throughout your course you will also focus on improving your grammar, spelling and punctuation skills as well as developing your vocabulary, study skills and skills for work. The topics you will study have been chosen to help you gain confidence and improve your English and content is adapted to include topics and skills that are relevant and important to you.

Most of our courses currently take place at Wellington House, with some content for higher levels learners delivered online. We are also beginning to run more classes at community venues, so please contact us for the latest information on where you can study.

Most people with a settled status will be able to attend and if you're on a low income, unemployed or on means-tested benefits you probably won't have to pay or could at least get a discount. To find out more, please get in touch: see our contact details in the Useful Contacts page of this newsletter.



BARNLSLEY'S BIG WEEKEND

FREE!

Friday 14 to Sunday 16 July 2023

BARNLSLEY GOES GLOBAL - FRIDAY 14 JULY 2023

Library @ the Lightbox

- Fun samba drumming workshops for children at 1pm and 4pm
- Pick up a children's world stories book to take home
- Barnsley City of Sanctuary and Schwäbisch Gmünd Twin Town Society stalls
- Wear colourful butterfly wings and get into the carnival spirit from 2-7pm

The Glass Works Square

- Enjoy free live music on the outdoor stage from 4.30-8pm
- Performances from Taiwan, Japan, India, Germany, Austria, and Barnsley!
- Plus learn dances from across the world with Feels Like Home Group at intervals from 4.30-6pm

SATURDAY 15 JULY

- Brassed On! Music festival with brass band favourites in the Glass Works Square
- Barnsley Pride in Mandela Gardens
- Mayor's Day

SUNDAY 16 JULY

- A #WhatsYourMove family-fun sports day across the Glass Works and town centre



FREE Support to Build Digital Skills



Did you know that there are digital champions in Barnsley who can help you to build more confidence using the internet and online services?

The digital champions are supported by the Council and provide free one-to-one support sessions in libraries across Barnsley to help with things such as:

- Emailing
- Browsing the web and staying safe online
- Video calling
- Online shopping and banking
- Social media
- Using online council services, such as:
 - Completing online forms to apply or report something
 - View your Council Tax and benefits online
 - Search for and apply for a council house
- Using online library services

You can book a 45-minute slot with a digital champion and bring your own device along (such as a laptop, tablet or smartphone). Or you can borrow a device on the day – you just need to mention that you need a device when you request to book a session.

There are also free online basics courses with a choice of dates and venues. Each course runs one day a week for six weeks. Sessions cover:

- Week 1 – using the internet and searching the internet
- Week 2 – online forms and keeping your personal details secure
- Week 3 – using email
- Week 4 – accessing public services and health services online
- Week 5 – online shopping
- Week 6 – learning to video call and watching/listening online

Digital champion sessions and online basics courses are open to asylum seekers and refugees but there is no additional ESOL support for those learning English.

To book a place at one of the digital champion sessions or on any of the courses, you will need to fill in an online form on the website (see below), or call (01226) 773555, or ask in the library.

Find out more here:

<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/training-and-development/digital-skills-and-learning/free-digital-support-sessions/>

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**

Here's what some of the women who attended the group think of it...

"It's very good, very helpful. There are many different types of ladies. The group provides food, and summer and winter clothes and children's clothes."

"I have made lots of friends. There are people here from the same country as me."

"I speak and learn English here."

"I was looking for help. People recommended to me that I come here."

"You see people from everywhere sharing ideas and problems. You don't think you are the only person, you don't think you're alone. When people don't feel lonely, they feel more strong."

"It inspires you. Inspiring people is very important."

"Lots of things are very good, I am learning things."

"You people are a blessing to me."

"Everyone has stress in their life. If you can laugh for just a minute it makes a big difference."

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

From Asylum Seeker to Refugee

Here we feature the first in a new series looking at what happens when an asylum seeker arrives in Barnsley and is granted refugee status

Jackie Wray, Asylum Advisor at the Refugee Council, has contributed our first piece.

An **asylum seeker** means a person (or family) who has left their own country to seek protection from persecution and serious human rights violations and is waiting to receive a decision on their asylum claim, so has not been legally recognised as a refugee yet. Seeking asylum is a basic human right. Asylum seekers can apply for support with accommodation and subsistence while their application for asylum is decided.

A **refugee** is a person who has received a decision on their asylum application and has been granted protection, which arises from the United Nations 1951 Convention on Human Rights. Refugees have the same rights as any other British citizen. They are granted five years' right to remain in the UK, after which they can apply for indefinite leave then citizenship.

The above is a brief overview. Both processes can be lengthy, stressful, difficult and can vary in time.

An asylum seeker has no choice on where they live, unless they have family in the UK who can offer accommodation, and they may be able to claim subsistence only. Those who need accommodation can be dispersed to anywhere in the UK and will usually receive a flat or house but sometimes hotel accommodation (though not in Barnsley).

Most of the asylum seekers in Barnsley are on Section 95 support which includes housing and/or £45 allowance per person per week. Or they are on Section 4 support, which is normally granted to people who have failed asylum claims and have submitted fresh claims and are destitute. Section 4 includes housing and/or a lower allowance which is cashless with an ASPEN card which can only be used in shops or supermarkets, like a voucher.

The asylum support claim and the asylum claim are separate and different. The Home Office provides the subsistence support in Barnsley. The accommodation provider is Mears Housing who have a contract with the Home Office to provide this.

I feel asylum seekers and refugees in Barnsley are fortunate – I can say this after working with refugees and asylum seekers in Barnsley for over 20 years. We are unique in that we have the Barnsley Refugee Advice Project (BRAP) run by the Refugee Council. We now have an active City of Sanctuary team, alongside the Penistone Refugee and Asylum Seekers Support Group, The Health Integration Team, The Multi Agency Drop-in and the Barnsley MBC Asylum Liaison Team.

See the front page of this newsletter for details of the Refugee Council in Barnsley.

Case Study

H arrived in the UK from Eritrea in 2015, but his journey to escape Eritrea started in 2014. He travelled from his own country mostly by foot over the Sahara Desert. He had limited food and water and he saw people die on the journey. The traffickers didn't treat anyone with compassion. He arrived in Libya and was immediately arrested. He stayed there for over six months and the treatment was very bad. He was able to escape and took the hazardous boat journey on the Mediterranean Sea to Italy. The journey was frightening and H did, at this stage, wonder if he would survive.

He arrived in Italy and slowly made his way to Calais, where he lived in the jungle camp, every evening trying to cross the Channel. He managed to travel on the underneath of the train through the Channel Tunnel. He arrived in Dover and made a claim for asylum at the port. He was given a screening interview to decide whether he had the right to claim asylum.

H was accepted and dispersed to Barnsley whilst his claim was being considered. He was supported by myself and the Red Cross, who had a weekly advice service in Barnsley. He attended ESOL classes and took advantage of community groups.

H's journey was really bad but his asylum claim application was smooth. He attended his substantive interview with a Home Office case worker and was granted refugee status from the interview. Many receive a negative decision from the interview which they can appeal, then they have to attend an immigration appeal tribunal. If this fails, they can appeal on legal grounds to the upper tribunal.

H decided to remain in Barnsley so the Refugee Council BRAP team was able to help support him to claim benefits and obtain housing, a bank account and travel documentation. The Red Cross was then able to support him to bring his wife over on a family reunion.

H and his wife both work at ASOS now. Many of our clients have academic qualifications, but will take any employment opportunity to rebuilt their lives as they have lost everything.

They have saved enough money to purchase a semi-detached property. H worked two jobs to put a large deposit on the house purchase. He helps other Eritreans in Barnsley.

H and his wife are planning to travel to Ethiopia to see his parents as it has been nine years since he saw them. He did reflect on the journey and wondered many times why he had attempted it, thinking he would never see his wife or family again. You may ask, "Why do people make such choices?" Eritrea is a totalitarian dictatorship with compulsory lifetime Military conscription and poor human rights, which helps to explain H's decision.



Barnsley Refugee Integration Service

*Rudo Mkumba
at The Barnsley Refugee Integration Service (BRIS)
has contributed this piece
to help explain what happens
to those granted settled
status as a refugee.*

Receiving refugee status can provide certainty and safety, but the period of change between being an asylum seeker and a refugee brings its own challenges.

When a person's claim for asylum in the UK has been determined and they are granted leave to remain as a refugee, their Home Office provided accommodation and their weekly allowance will cease 28 days after the date of the decision. During this period, there is an urgent need to source alternative accommodation and an alternative income. At this point, BRIS steps in to help.

BRIS is a small team offering individual support to new refugees aged 16 and above in Barnsley. The support helps individuals to settle into the community, as well as to access services such as housing and benefits. The BRIS service is run by Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council in partnership with Migration Yorkshire.

People can access the BRIS service if they have received a positive asylum decision within the past two years through a variety of routes: refugee status; humanitarian protection; family reunion; discretionary leave of over 30 months or unaccompanied asylum-seeking children with leave to remain.

BRIS works with each individual to devise a six-month plan that's right for them. Individuals will have access to:

- A named support worker
- Housing advice
- Benefits advice
- Support to apply for a bank account
- Support with job-seeking
- Opportunities to engage with the local community
- Access to health, training, education and ESOL
- A range of other tailored support

How to refer someone to the Barnsley Refugee Integration Service:

Phone: 01226 787602

Mobile: 07775033443, 07795389596

Email: adviceservices@barnsley.gov.uk



Multi-Agency Drop-in for Barnsley's Migrant Communities

For information, support and advice on: migration, housing, work and benefits, health and wellbeing, education, volunteering, social activities, community groups, safety, children and youth services, Barnsley information, council services and more.

Agencies regularly represented include: Refugee Council, Barnsley Refugee Integration Service, Barnsley College, Health Integration Team, ELSH, Berneslai Homes, IDAS, Migrant Action, Live Well, Feels Like Home, South Yorkshire Police, Polska Biblioteka, Digital Champions, Barnsley CVS, Family Lives, and Barnsley Libraries.

FREE Hairdressing, Drinks & Snacks, Foodbank Referrals & Children's Activities



South Yorkshire Refugee Law and Justice



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@syrjlj.org.uk email address. 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.

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

First in Yorkshire

Penistone Town Council has adopted a Motion supporting the rights of those seeking asylum in the UK. A Motion provides the basis for taking decisions around an issue. The Council is the first political body in Yorkshire to adopt such a Motion. It was passed unanimously across a very broad-based membership. You can read the Motion below.

Penistone Town Council is proud of the welcoming spirit of our community and our core values of openness and respect for others.

Penistone Town Council is concerned that:

- (i) people seeking safety in the UK face a number of challenges in rebuilding their lives, including increased waiting time for decisions, family separation and the risk of destitution and homelessness.
- (ii) accommodating people seeking safety in institutional settings, including hotels and accommodation centres, leads to isolation and difficulty in accessing vital services.
- (iii) the majority of people seeking safety are effectively barred from working and prevented from providing for themselves and their families.

Penistone Town Council believes:

- (i) everyone should have the opportunity to rebuild their lives and fulfil their potential.
- (ii) people seeking safety in the UK should have their cases heard in a fair and timely way in the UK.
- (iii) people seeking safety belong in communities in safe and dignified accommodation.
- (iv) people seeking safety want to be able to work and make the most of their potential, integrate into their communities and provide for themselves and their families.
- (v) at a time of labour shortages and rising cost of living, allowing people seeking safety the right to work would lead to positive outcomes for themselves and for the national economy.

Penistone Town Council:

- (i) recognises and celebrates the contribution those seeking safety make to the UK.
- (ii) continues to support the work of local groups such as the Penistone Refugee and Asylum Seekers Group raising awareness of the challenges facing people seeking safety in our community.

Penistone Town Council



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.

Donations Urgently Needed!

Barnsley Foodbank Partnership has been working tirelessly to address the effects of the Cost of Living Crisis on the community. Unfortunately, the ongoing crisis has only served to exacerbate the situation, leading to a significant increase in the number of food parcels we distribute. To continue providing this vital service, we rely on the generosity of the public. However, due to the ongoing crisis, we have been experiencing a decrease in the amount of donations we receive.

See above if you wish to donate, or find all available ways to get involved by visiting: www.barnsley.foodbank.org.uk

Currently, our most needed items are the following:

- Tinned Fruit
- Rice
- Dilute/Juice
- Soup
- Long Life (UHT) Milk
- Tinned Potatoes
- Gravy Granules





The Horseshoe PH,
Wombwell



There are Safe Places venues across
Barnsley Borough.

These include all libraries and some cafes, leisure
centres and shops.

Here is a small selection of some of our fabulous venues.



Elsecar Heritage
Centre



The Metrodome
Leisure Centre



The Library@The Lightbox

SafePlaces.org.uk



Marcopaulo's coffee
shop, Goldthorpe



Barnsley Police Station



Cafe Creme,
Penistone

For more information email: BarnsleySafePlaces@cloverleaf-advocacy.co.uk

A Safe Place is a shop, business, or public building where you can go if you need help to contact a friend or carer if you are out and feel unsafe. All venues have friendly, helpful staff who are trained to provide short term assistance to any adult, 16 years or over, who feels unsure or unsafe whilst out and about in Barnsley. All venues display the Barnsley Safe places sticker in their window. At present, there are over 80 venues across the whole of Barnsley Borough, including all 13 libraries, some coffee shops, leisure centres and shops.

To become a member of Safe Places,
email: barnsleysafeplaces@cloverleaf-advocacy.co.uk
or ring 0300 012 0412.

It is free to join and you will receive a member's card, a guide, and details about new venues and events being held. There is also a free mobile app to help users find the nearest open Barnsley Safe Places venue.

Barnsley Safe Places is run by Cloverleaf Advocacy in Barnsley.
To become a venue, email: barnsleysafeplaces@cloverleaf-advocacy.co.uk
or ring 0300 012 0412.

You will be visited by Cloverleaf staff who will give advice
and deliver any training and materials required.

Thank you!

In Spring 2023, the Penistone Refugee and Asylum Seekers Support Group tendered for and won a grant from the United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), administered by Barnsley Council. The grant enabled the Group to undertake vital work to help asylum seekers and refugees in Barnsley suffering the effects of the devastating rises in the cost of living which are affecting so many people at the moment. Activities included:

- Provision of weekly ESOL (English for speakers of other languages) classes for one term, led by Hope English School, at the Women's Refugee, Migrant and Asylum Seekers Group. [Find out more on Page 8.](#)
- BConnect one-day bus passes to support the weekly attendance of 20-25 women at the Women's Refugee, Migrant and Asylum Seekers Group which meets every Wednesday morning at Hope House, Blucher Street. [See Page 11 for more details, including feedback from the women who attend.](#)
- Aldi food vouchers worth £20 each to combat food poverty amongst asylum seeker families.
- Supply of 60 hygiene packs each containing around £10 worth of items (supplemented by donations), which are distributed through Mears Housing to asylum seekers and to families in the community.
- A trip to Cannon Hall for seven families of asylum seekers. This includes using tickets generously subsidised by Cannon Hall Farm and a bus sourced through a local company and giving each person £5 to spend on the day.
- Production of the Barnsley Borough City of Sanctuary newsletter you are now reading! This is edited free of charge by the Penistone Refugee and Asylum Seekers Support Group and distributed widely throughout the Borough, including to many front-line workers who support asylum seekers and refugees. It is also made available in the 75 houses accommodating asylum seekers in the Borough, which are managed by Mears Housing. Funding has contributed to formatting and printing of the newsletter.

A big thank you to Barnsley MBC for awarding this grant and helping the Penistone Refugee and Asylum Seekers Support Group to make a significant difference to so many asylum seekers and refugees, both individuals and families.



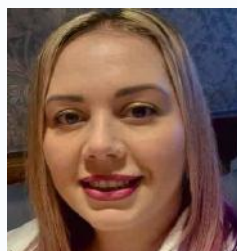
BARNSELY
Metropolitan Borough Council



The Barnsley Hospital Infant Feeding Team



Sarah Beardsall
Infant Feeding
Coordinator



Leah Crompton
Infant Feeding
Support Worker



Jade Armitage
Infant Feeding
Support Worker



Scan for further
information on
Feeding

Breastfeeding? Chestfeeding? Expressing? Infant Feeding Support?
Ask me.

Email: BDG.TR-InfantFeedingTeam@nhs.net



How to Register with a Doctor (GP)

NHS information for asylum seekers and refugees

A GP is a local family doctor. You need to register with a GP as soon as you can when you arrive in England so you can see the GP when you are sick. Before you register, contact the GP surgery to confirm that it covers the address where you are living or staying temporarily. There is no charge to register with a GP in England. Once you are registered, there is also no charge to see your GP.

You do not have to provide ID to register but it is helpful if you can provide some ID – a passport, birth certificate, biometric residence permit, travel document, HC2 certificate, ARC card or utility bill.

If you have difficulty speaking or understanding English, tell the staff at the GP surgery. They will be able to arrange an interpreter. You will not be charged for this service.

If your GP decides that you need medicine, you will receive a prescription. Take your prescription to any pharmacy. You will need an HC2 certificate to get your medicine free. You should show your HC2 certificate to the staff at the pharmacy and also tick the correct box on your prescription. You will need to fill in an HC1 certificate form to apply for an HC2. For more information on how to obtain HC2 certificates, contact Help with Health Costs on 0300 330 133 or go to www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/1125.aspx

You can find more information at:

<https://assets.nhs.uk/prod/documents/how-to-register-with-a-gp-asylum-seekers-and-refugees.pdf>



Welcome to Lucy Ramsden!



South Yorkshire
POLICE

Hello, my name is Lucy Ramsden and I am the new Hate Crime Coordinator for Barnsley working for South Yorkshire Police. My role is to assist and support victims of hate crime within the district of Barnsley. I also support officers throughout investigations and ensure reporting is accurate and effective. A big part of my role is also to engage with different communities, providing advice and raising awareness of hate crime and how to report it. I work with education professionals, health professionals, support groups such as victim support and the council to do this. I also provide training to centres around Barnsley so they too can support victims of hate crime and report any incidents they are informed of.



If you wish to get in contact with me with any queries or questions relating to hate crime please email:
lucy.ramsden@southyorkshire.police.uk

In the News!

Tetiana Malkova, 72, of Worsbrough Common, wrote the poem

- Ukraine with Love -

as a thank you to those who provided her with shelter and a place to stay when she came over to the UK from Ukraine last year. Her poem was recently featured in the Barnsley Chronicle!



I am told it was not always like this.
There were mines and heavy labour here.
Now everything has changed forever,
And birds sing here until dusk.
The air is fresh here, the weather is changeable,
Sometimes rain, sometimes the sun shines through the clouds.
Here everything blooms in any season,
Spring forever.
Gusts of wind break umbrellas,
Push your back or hit your face.
Don't slow down.
Be strong, and who knows,
You might break the ring of your destiny.
You will become free, like this wind,
Wild, cheerful, full of the thirst for life.
How I want to wake up at dawn,
How I want to breathe, love, and be.
Here the evenings are quiet, like water
In that lake called pond.
Night fears won't come here
The dome of the sky is like a protective umbrella.

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: Wellington House, 36 Wellington St. Barnsley S70 1WA (open Monday - 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



Yorkshire Integration Festival

Celebrating our
communities together

30th September 2023 

Sheffield 

Peace Gardens & Winter Garden

 Refugee Integration
Yorkshire and Humber
Part of Migration Yorkshire



This project is co-funded by the European
Union Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund.
Making management of migration flows more
efficient across the European Union.



Barnsley

City of Sanctuary

for more information contact
secretary.bbcos@gmail.com

www.barnsley.cityofsanctuary.org