



HOME FROM HOME HALLAM

Refugee Family Welcome – a Community Sponsorship project

NEWSLETTER NO. 2

November 2021

This is our second newsletter, and we are excited to report a lot of progress in our application to bring an extra refugee family to Sheffield.

Application submitted

The great news is that our application for approval in principle is complete and has been submitted to Sheffield City Council, who will write a letter of support for the application, which will then be submitted to the Home Office.

We have requested a family with children, and the family will be selected by the United Nations Refugee Agency, as being in special need. They may have had particular trauma, or one of them may be sick or disabled. Often families are allocated from one of the large refugee camps in Jordan, but after the recent events in Afghanistan and the ongoing crisis there, it's very possible that we could be allocated an Afghani family.

So what have we been doing?

Before we submitted the application we agreed in principle with South Yorkshire Housing Association to find us a 3-4 bedroom house, and found out what benefits and other support they might be eligible for. We got in touch with Council officials to secure support in finding schools for the children, and suitable English language classes for adults. We have outlined what will go in an induction pack for the family, with everything they will need to know about how to access services and what to expect in the UK. We have been in touch with translators and interpreters, and medical practices and other support services which may be able to help the family.

Of course it's been very important to agree with the Diocese a suitable safeguarding policy, and to set up a provisional budget, and estimate the cost of all that we need to do.

You may have noticed that we now have a logo - see the top of the page. We have also a presence on the [Diocesan website](#) under the Caritas tab. We will be posting these newsletters there.



We have found out a lot about other groups and how they work. There is one other Community Sponsorship group in Sheffield, Steel City Welcome; we have been in touch with them and volunteers from both groups hope to undertake joint training from SAVTE (Sheffield Association for the Voluntary Teaching of English.) We have had speakers from City of Sanctuary, and from Salford Diocese (who got started before us and have now welcomed 12 families.)

Next steps

- We are continuing to undertake training, including safeguarding training.
- We will be getting safeguarding (DBS) checks for volunteers who will be working directly with the family.
- We hope to soon have a Facebook page, and a page on the City of Sanctuary website.
- We may need to raise more money. Although we are clear that we would like the family to use the resources provided by the state and local government as far as possible, translators, transport from the airport and initial set-up costs take quite a large part of our budget.

Anyone who would like to get involved, or just to know more about what we are doing, please contact Eva Kaltenthaler (ekaltenthaler@hallam-diocese.com)

Please continue to remember us in your prayers as our project develops.