

HOME FROM HOME HALLAM

Refugee Family Welcome – a Community Sponsorship project

NEWSLETTER NO. 3
February 2022

Since our last newsletter in November, our project has moved forward in leaps.

Application approved in principle

Our application went to the Home Office in January; we met with them on 31st, and have already received a notification that our project is approved in principle. This means that when we have secured a house, we will be allocated a family, who could arrive within 6 – 8 weeks after that.

Volunteers' activities

We are in touch with the South Yorkshire Housing Association, who are very interested in our project and keen to help us find a suitable property. They are looking for a suitable 4-bed or large 3-bed house. As soon something suitable becomes available, they will arrange for us to look at it to see if it meets our requirements.

When we have secured a house, we will know what needs to be done in the way of refurbishing it and providing essentials. We have already received some offers of help, but may be asking for more. We will also be able to start contacting local schools and community services, when we know about the family.

'Family volunteers' - that is volunteers who want to work directly with the family - have been identified. We all have to be DBS checked – which the Diocese is overseeing - and have been working our way through online Safeguarding and Prevent training. We will also undertake the RESET part 2 training, and plan to have a family volunteer training session in April.

A fact sheet is being developed for our family describing our group, Sheffield and the support we will provide. We are planning to get this translated into the family's language, once it is known.

Several of us are also undergoing training with SAVTE (Sheffield Association for the Voluntary Teaching of English); some of us hope to be giving English lessons, and others are thinking about how to communicate with the family as they help them access local shops and services. This course has been good fun – with some interesting moments when one of their volunteers gave us a lesson in Shona, and we were asked to practice writing in Bengali.



Diocese of Hallam



 **caritas**
diocese of hallam
promoting care and social action

We are undertaking this training with volunteers from the other Community Support group in Sheffield – Steel City Welcome.

Our Safeguarding policy is now in place.

We have set up a Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/389758399307749> - if you would like to keep up to date with our progress, please join this group.

You can also access an electronic copy of this quarterly newsletter on the [Diocesan website](#)

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.