

## How Brighton & Hove residents can help refugees, including those arriving from Afghanistan

We're working closely with local communities and the local City of Sanctuary Group and we're forming partnerships to provide a welcome for those seeking sanctuary in Brighton & Hove.

Brighton & Hove has a proud history of solidarity and welcome for refugees, and we will be doing all we can to support the people fleeing from the desperate situation in Afghanistan.

We're working to make sure we have the necessary support networks in place and are in urgent need of large, self-contained private sector properties to help families resettle in the city. If any landlords can offer us properties on a long-term basis to support this humanitarian crisis, please email [refugeehelp@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:refugeehelp@brighton-hove.gov.uk).

We are grateful for the many offers of help we have already received. Below is some information outlining other ways you can assist refugees at this time.

### Volunteering your time

- You can view city wide volunteering opportunities in Brighton & Hove on the Community Works website: [Volunteering opportunities in Brighton, Hove, Adur & Worthing : Community Works \(bhcommunityworks.org.uk\)](http://bhcommunityworks.org.uk).
- [Refugee Radio – supporting refugees, asylum seekers and vulnerable migrants](http://refugeeradio.org.uk) run befriending services and a mental health support group and are often looking for volunteers, please contact [info@refugeeradio.org.uk](mailto:info@refugeeradio.org.uk) for more information.
- [The Migrant English Project - Welcoming asylum seekers, refugees and migrants to Brighton and Hove \(mepbrighton.com\)](http://mepbrighton.com) look to recruit volunteers to support with English.
- [Brighton Exiled/Refugee Trauma Service \(BERTS\) \(brightonandhovecbt.com\)](http://brightonandhovecbt.com) periodically look to recruit volunteers for their befriending scheme.
- The Hummingbird Project works creatively 1:1 and in groups with young refugees in Brighton [Get in Touch \(hummingbirdproject.org.uk\)](http://hummingbirdproject.org.uk) for more information.
- [Volunteer | Conversation-Borders \(conversationoverborders.org\)](http://conversationoverborders.org) regularly looks for volunteers to support with English conversational support.

## Spare rooms and hosting

While the council is only looking for long-term self-contained accommodation, there are a number of organisations you can contact if you have a spare room or short term space you would like to offer:

- Refugees at Home [Be A Host – Refugees At Home](#) connects those with a spare room in their home to refugees and asylum seekers in need of somewhere to stay.
- [Room for Refugees](#) offer a similar service.
- [Thousand 4 £1000 – Making homes for refugees \(thousand4thousand.org.uk\)](#) is a Brighton-based charity which pools hundreds of small regular donations to provide temporary accommodation.

## Fostering and Supported Lodging

- For information on fostering young refugees and asylum seekers please see: [Fostering and adoption \(brighton-hove.gov.uk\)](#).
- For information on supporting young refugees and asylum seekers leaving care please see: [Supported lodgings for young people \(brighton-hove.gov.uk\)](#) or contact [supportedlodgings@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:supportedlodgings@brighton-hove.gov.uk)

While expressions of interest are always warmly welcomed, please remember that fostering and supported lodgings is a process that takes time. Considering you will be working with young people, often with complex needs, proper assessment for suitability will take place.

## Material goods and food donations

- [Voices in Exile | Supporting refugees, asylum seekers and those with no recourse to public funds](#) offer practical, material, legal, and integration support for refugees and asylum seekers in our city.
- Voices in Exile welcome:
  - Monetary donations (<https://www.voicesinexile.org/donate/>)
  - Food donations, toiletries, and cleaning products for their weekly food bank. Current item list: rice, pasta, tinned fish, cooking oil, tins of chopped tomatoes, chickpeas, lentils, washing detergent, shower gel, shampoo, hand soap and toothpaste (adult and children)

### **Donations must be in date, unopened and in good condition.**

Please email [foodbankcoordinator@voicesinexile.org](mailto:foodbankcoordinator@voicesinexile.org) or call 01273 328598 to arrange drop-off.

- For clothes, toiletries and similar donations, please contact [Care4Calais](#) who will distribute to refugees and asylum seekers in need, both in the Brighton &

Hove area and nationally. They also regularly seek volunteers to support them.

- For toys and other children's items, please consider donating to: [Pelican Parcels](#) who take pre-loved and new item donations for babies and children up to age of 10, and redistribute them to families facing financial hardship via various existing family services in Brighton & Hove in Sussex.
- Charity Shops! Refugees and asylum seekers in Brighton & Hove use local charity shops to buy affordable clothes and other items, like anyone else, and this enables them to make their own choices.

\*Updated August 2021