

DASH

NEWSLETTER

Destitute Asylum Seekers Huddersfield

August 21st 2016

The good news first:

So far this year 22 people to whom DASH has given substantial support have been granted leave to remain, many of them with full refugee status.

All but one of them were on their first claim, although some had waited two years for a decision. This shows that we are being more effective in supporting people to get the leave to remain they need first time round. Our record in any one year is 22 people, so we hope, with three months to go, that we will exceed that.

The Taste of Freedom project is slowly taking off: go to our website at:

www.tasteoffreedom.org.uk for details. We are catering a community event at Cummins Turbo Technology on 1 September, a Hope not Hate event on 3 September and hope to have details soon of a fundraising dinner and auction at a restaurant in Bradford.

There have been lots of donations, including a regular weekly fresh food donation from the Salvation Army (begun in January), a regular weekly fresh food donation from Tesco's FareShare project (begun in June) and regular donations of food, toiletries and clothes from the Al-Suffah mosque (begun in March). We regularly receive donations of clothes, toys, books and household goods. If the clothes are not taken within a reasonable space of time, we recycle them for 50p a kilo and this helps to pay our food bills.

DASH NEWSLETTER

We continue to use 30 New North Road for English classes on Tuesday afternoons and hope to be in the Ark Church for our drop ins until next March, when the space is to be handed back to the British Legion. We are very grateful to St Patrick's Church and to the Ark Church for donating their spaces. Future possibilities for a drop in space are being negotiated at the moment and we are looking for somewhere in town.

Around 80-90 people come to each drop in, making a footfall of almost 200 per week. This is an increase of 35%+ on the numbers we were seeing in June, although some of these are children and we anticipate the numbers will fall when they return to school in September. We give out around 30 food parcels on Thursdays and provide lunch for all on both drop in days, cooked by clients.

English classes take place at the Ark on Mondays and Thursdays – 11-1 – and at 30 New North Road on Tuesdays – 1.30-3.30. We are most grateful to all our tutors, particularly John Atherton who takes the lead on this.

We have had lots of trips to the theatre, to music gigs, to the National Media Museum, to Castle Hill, to the Kirkheaton Art Festival, the funfair, to the National Mining Museum, to Jungle Experience in Halifax, to the dog show in Shibden Park, Halifax, to indoor ski-ing, local trips to feed the ducks, trips to the small park attached to Lockwood Baptist Church, trips to Beaumont Park (including volunteering weeding) and are planning trips to the circus, Forbidden Corner and to Honley Petanque group.

KPMG, an international accounting firm, and Andy Dale Associates are donating their time to help us with our IT and systems.

DASH NEWSLETTER

Funding news:

We have had funding from the Brelms Trust for six months of our development worker fees for the next three years, which is excellent. The Al Khair foundation have made a generous grant of £10,000. We continue to receive smaller donations from individuals and churches, for which we are most grateful.

Volunteers:

DASH could not exist without volunteers, be they local volunteers or client volunteers. Client volunteers are particularly valuable as they provide translation services and are able to put new clients at ease and explain the services we offer at DASH. They also are the backbone of running the space, setting up the room, getting out the toys, managing the clothing and other goods we offer, taking on reception and registration duties, managing the destitution support, making lunch, washing up, tidying and sweeping the room at the end of the day, and generally supporting each other and the local volunteers with whatever they can.

Local volunteers are able to offer transport, local knowledge, an insight into the culture of the UK, English classes, help with shopping, managing the Taste of Freedom project and research for clients and we are very grateful to them for their ongoing tremendous support.

Thank you, all of you.

And lastly, to those of you who are reading this newsletter, a thank you: we know you are doing your best to combat prejudice against asylum seekers and refugees and thank you for your support and assistance.