

Horsham Refugee Support Group

Newsletter September 2019

New arrivals

We have welcomed two new families to Horsham District so far in 2019, and two more are due to arrive next month.

Our decorating team are hard at work preparing two properties – **please contact us if you'd like to help.**



This will take us up to 8 families, and we'll be supporting 16 adults and 20 children! If you'd like to join the volunteer team to befriend or teach English, please **contact us.**

HRSG wins a grant



We have been working closely with local Police, PCSOs and Neighbourhood Wardens to help families feel safe and secure in the community and to support them with issues they have been facing. One of our PCSO contacts applied successfully for a £500 grant for HRSG from the Police Property Act Fund. We're delighted to be chosen and look forward to using the money to support families further with their integration.

The Syrian Kitchen



We are delighted that one of our dads has realised his dream of working for himself. Najat is running *The Syrian Kitchen* stall in Horsham market on Saturdays. Please pop over and support him – the food is delicious!

An update from Safe Passage

We're worried - a no-deal Brexit could put thousands of child refugees at risk.

The Government could let the door close on the process by which child refugees in Europe reunite with family in the UK after 31st October. The consequences could be fatal. Without a legal route, these young refugees could vanish, tempted by smugglers to try to cross the Channel at Calais on the back of a lorry or in an overcrowded dinghy.

We need as many people on board as possible, The bigger we are, the more power we have together.

Join the campaign: <http://safepassage.org.uk>



Horsham Refugee Support Group

Items needed September 2019

Items needed

Please find below the list of items we are currently looking for.

If you can help, please contact us.

Household items

Televisions, DVD players, mobile phones with basic SIM cards

The Home Office does not provide these items on the VPR Scheme and we like to supply them for families as we think there are huge benefits when learning English. We are looking for a television and DVD player for each of the two new properties being prepared for October. We have also discovered that WSCC does not have the usual mobile phones with £10 credit to give each new arrival, as these have been donated in the past but have run out.

Perhaps you have items to donate or would like to make a financial contribution so that we can buy these?

Large freezer

Most of our families travel to Crawley to buy halal meat and have found it is more economical to buy in bulk. One of our families asked us for a large upright freezer for their kitchen; we said we weren't sure we could find a donation but we would ask! Any ideas?

Food mixer

Another frequent request from families – one mum would like to make smoothies for her small children, another would like to be able to mince her own meat. Do you have anything suitable?

Warm blankets

Generally when new families arrive, they often ask for extra blankets or duvets as they feel cold at night. We have learnt that donations of these are often plentiful so please check with us before collecting too many! Thank you.

Children's items

Toys

We would love to provide toys and stationery/art supplies for the new arrivals:

1. Two boys, aged 9 and 6, arriving 9 Oct
2. Boy age 3 and girl age 2, arriving 30 Oct

Books

We like to provide new families with Arabic/English dual language picture books to read with their children. These are readily available on Amazon and we have a list of suggestions if needed.

Bicycles

Parents are keen for their children to have bicycles and this becomes very important once they reach Year Six and do Bikeability at school, then wish to ride to secondary school.

We have managed to source bikes for many of the children, but the following children are still waiting:

- girl age 8
- girl age 6

We would also like to find bicycles for the new arrival described above:

- boy age 9
- boy age 6