

Supporting Asylum Seekers in Broxbourne

You may be aware that the Home Office has recently accommodated a significant number of people, temporarily in the Borough of Broxbourne, who are seeking asylum after fleeing conflict and persecution in their countries and having to leave their homes and loved ones behind. Most of these people are families with young children, all of whom have very little in the way of basic clothes, shoes or personal items other than what they wore or could carry on their journey and maybe a handful of items that have been donated to them since. Local churches, faith groups and others in the community are trying to offer their support initially in three main ways: fundraising, donating clothing, donating toys and games. Can you help us? We have put together the following information and guidelines:

Fundraising

One aspect of our support is to raise money to buy much needed basic clothing, such as fresh underwear and proper shoes, for everyone. The charity Care4Calais is helping to coordinate aid locally. Monetary donations to purchase basic supplies can be made via this link:

<https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/donation/care-4-calais-west-essex-east-herts&tag=>

or scan the QR code:

Please add the reference 'Broxbourne' in the comment box to ensure that your donations are easily identified and set aside to support people in our local area. 100 percent of the money received is spent on buying items and services and gift aid is added to purchases, so your contributions, no matter how small, will really make a difference.



Donating Clothing

We are also collecting and donating clothing. Once you've collected donated clothes, contact Rubbina Umar (07944 887103), for collection and transport to the asylum seeker accommodation for distribution.

Guidelines for donated clothing and other items:

- Only if it is good enough to offer to a friend, is it then good enough to donate.
- All donated items of clothing must be in good condition, no holes, tears, or stains, clean and freshly washed and checked for working zips and buttons and empty pockets.
- Casual clothing rather than formal/business wear is what is most sought after, especially in small or medium sizes for men and not skimpy or revealing for women and girls.
- Machine washable preferred.
- No images or logos on clothing that may offend.
- Clothing for baby boys is currently not required.

It is really helpful if clothing is sorted into bags and labelled according to age/size prior to being donated. This makes the next stage of quality control and allocation sorting so much less time consuming, particularly for children and babies clothing.

Most needed clothing items:

- Coats, jackets, jogging bottoms, jeans, long and short sleeved tee shirts, jumpers, hoodies, tops, dresses, leggings, hats, gloves, scarves.
- NEW underwear for women and new boxer shorts for men

- Winter shoes and boots, trainers, flip-flops and sliders. All in good condition and clean please and no formal or high heeled shoes.

Other useful items:

- Pushchairs/strollers/buggies – clean and in good working order
- Mobile phones - wiped, unlocked and with a working battery and charger
- Backpacks
- Suitcases
- Umbrellas

Donating Toys and Games

We are also collecting and donating toys and games for use by children at the accommodation. These can be taken directly to the accommodation, or Dave Lee (North Broxbourne - davelee51@sky.com) and Mark Escott (South Broxbourne) have offered to collect and transport donations.

Guidance and suggestions for donations of toys and games:

- All items must be clean, undamaged and complete.
- All soft toys must have a CE label of health and safety
- No items requiring batteries, No sharp/dangerous objects. No small potential choking hazards. No toy guns or violent/aggressive play items. No balls except soft sponge type balls. No overly large toys.

Toys for Babies and toddlers: Cot and pram toys, soft toys, dolls, posting/stacking toys, building blocks, Duplo, Brio type train sets, sensory toys, push and pull along toys, sorting, matching naming counting and alphabet toys, picture books, puzzles, playmats, baby walkers.

Toys for children: Cars, Transformers, Soft toys, Dolls with clothes, Lego sets, Imaginative play, Dressing-up clothes, Fidget toys, Top Trumps, Games that don't require reading ability, Sticker books, Simple story/reading/information books, Scooters & outdoor play equipment, Backpacks.

Games for older children teens and adults: Packs of Cards, Dominoes, Backgammon, Chess Sets, Draughts Sets, Solitaire, Uno, Connect 4, Jenga

Other items suited to different age groups:

- Art materials including sketch books/drawing paper
- Notebooks, Pens, sharpies/felts pencil cases (no pencil sharpeners)
- Colouring books
- Activity and Crafting kits that are self-contained with simple instructions and don't require scissors, sharp implements or additional equipment.
- Puzzles
- Board games and games that don't require understanding/knowledge of English language/culture or have complex instructions.

Thank you for any support you are able to offer. If you have any questions, please contact Ben Quant on 01992 410217 or ben@wormleyfreechurch.org.uk, and he will either answer your query or put you in touch with someone who can.