

Welcoming Refugees to Dorset – what can I do to help?

Over the coming weeks and months, many refugees will need support with accommodation, furniture, clothing etc. We know that many of you will want to respond and offer to help or help groups working in Dorset that are offering support.

There are many practical ways you help such as; raising awareness of the issues, promoting the support on offers locally on your social media/website, practical help by donating goods/clothing/bedding/money to any of the causes below:

International Care Network (ICN) is part of the Advice Dorset Partnership and have been working refugees and asylum seekers for over 20 years. ICN welcomes financial support and donations, however large or small, to help them to continue to improve the lives of refugees and migrants in Dorset. To contact them, phone 01202 589395 or email info@icn.org.uk

British Red Cross are locally supporting local Afghans to contact their MPs, signposting to relevant operating Foreign and Commonwealth Office support lines and offering emotional support. They are also continuing their destitution & refugee integration work to support Afghans that arrive outside the formally funded Resettlement Schemes.

Nationally BRC have launched an appeal fund:

<https://donate.redcross.org.uk/appeal/afghanistan-crisis-appeal>.

You can donate online or visit their charity shops in Dorset:

<https://www.redcross.org.uk/search-results?q=dorset>

Care4Calais have arranged specific drop off contacts for donations of goods and put together a useful leaflet highlighting priority items that are needed – [click here for a copy](#). To read more about Care4Calais, visit their website [here](#).

Dorset - Blandford Forum Parish Church (rear pews any weekday morning)

Market Place, Blandford Forum, Dorset

Contact Michael on 07768403512 or email hearn@forumsprings.plus.com

Please mark donations clearly as for Care4Calais

Poole – email laurenhobkirk1@hotmail.com

Bournemouth – email sarahjo.christie1@btinternet.com

Southbourne – email rossantonio@yahoo.com

Mindful Donations – Advice:

We are sharing a comment written by a resident on the Southbourne Care4Calais Facebook Community group, which lists the items that are best avoided.

Ross Donaldson wrote:

1. Please no clothing with camouflage pattern and styling.
2. Please no super hero clothing for children.
3. No clothing with aeroplane prints.
4. No clothing with boat prints.

5. Please no short skirts for girls and women. Afghani women and girls wear dresses below knee length.
6. Please be mindful if you are donating and Disney clothing of girl characters, who are very westernised.

Donations of clothing for men, women and children are welcomed along with any blankets or bedding.

Government/Dorset Council Support Information:

<https://helprefugees.campaign.gov.uk/>

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/your-council/equality-and-diversity/refugee-resettlement-in-dorset>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/support-for-british-and-non-british-nationals-in-afghanistan>

Request from Dorset Council - Can you provide housing for Afghan Refugees in Dorset?

Dorset Council is urging private landlords and owners of second homes to come forward if they can provide suitable accommodation for the Afghan relocation scheme.

Dorset Council has pledged to support the scheme, which is being funded by the UK government. Dorset Council will not use social housing for the scheme; they are, instead seeking offers of additional privately owned, self-contained accommodation to house families under this scheme. Dorset Council will work with property owners on all aspects of setting up the tenancy and support the family to settle in when they arrive and provide a dedicated caseworker.

Self-contained family homes needed

Dorset Council need a range of homes of varying sizes, particularly larger family homes that are available for at least 12 months. These need to be self-contained properties as opposed to offers of spare rooms or house sharing.

If you are a private landlord or own a second home and may be able to help with any of our housing needs, please contact afghanfamilieshousing@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk