

Afghan Families

'Closer Look' 3
Response to Afghanistan
Refugee Crisis

Context and Covid-19 Challenge

Agility and culture change. Covid-19 forced us to rapidly change our operating model and make quick decisions, working closely with schools and re-orientating resource to focus on emerging need. This experience has equipped us well to respond to the sudden arrival of Afghan refugees at a Fulham hotel in August 2021 – 126 new residents in H&F who have arrived from Afghanistan, including 68 children [17 (0-5), 14 (5-10), 21 (11-15), 16 (16-18)] in Fulham.

Education Support Offer

- 58 children (aged 5 and older) are enrolled at school. A further 30 children from RBKC have been enrolled at secondary school in H&F
- Extra-curricular activities timetable over half term and after school organised by the third sector
- Families have accessed Children Centre sessions and are all booked for ESOL and Family Learning
- Development of an education offer for 16+, including finding appropriate courses for 3 university level students
- All families have undergone DWP assessment and await payments
- Various charities have donated clothes, toys, buggies etc
- Health Visitor has completed screening assessments for all under 5's and GP registration is underway (approx. 70 now registered)
- Specialist Teachers and Educational Psychologist providing wrap around support to schools for individual pupils and staff

Implementing the learning from Covid-19

- **Working at pace**
- **Re-deployment of staff and diverting resource** – Early Years practitioners, School Advisors and Strategic Leads for Education, Family Support practitioners, Education Psychologist support and Stephen Wiltshire Centre sessional workers
- **Collaborative work with schools** – CYP enrolled at pace, developed a phased approach to transition, ongoing regular communication with schools from the local authority
- **Collaborative work with third sector and other parts of the council** (CAN, Housing, Adult Learning, Public Health and Community Safety) to coordinate support



YP participate in extra-curricular sports run by a local VCS organisation



Walking bus for Mums with young children to get to Children's Centre sessions



YP receive a boxing coaching session run by one of our youth providers.



A resource website developed by Educational Psychologists for schools supporting refugee pupils and their families. This has been shared with London Councils: <https://padlet.com/shonalandon/schoolrefugeewelcome>