

Afghan Families

Welcoming new Cohorts from Solihull and Camden

Arrival of Afghan refugees at a hotel in the borough in August 2021 – 120 new residents in H&F who have arrived from Afghanistan, including 68 children. **22 arrived on the 25th November and a third group of 47 were relocated from a bridging hotel in Camden on 1st of December. There are now total of 190 residents – 48 households – 101 adults and 89 children – 35 (0-5) 18 (6-10), 23 (11-15), 13 (16-18).**

CHS Support Offer

- 75 children are enrolled at school, nursery or college. A further 30 children from RBKC have been enrolled at secondary school in H&F
- Extra-curricular activities over Christmas and after school organised by the third sector
- Families have accessed Children Centre sessions and engaged in 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
- Educational Psychologist providing wrap around and Network support to schools for individual pupils and staff
- Continued Children's services presence at the hotel has enabled us to maintain stability. CHS representation on strategic board meetings.
- Any emerging safeguarding concerns have been appropriately managed in a timely way within the department



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.

- Extra-curricular programme
 - Women’s cooking groups
 - Men’s football
 - Circus skills
 - Sessions for young men
 - Sports
 - Harrow Club
- Contacted mosques, majids, churches and worked with community groups to collect donations – clothing, pushchairs, toys etc
- Donations received from local football clubs – kits, trainers etc

Adult Learning & Skills and the Shaw Trust have assisted evacuees into training and employment



Partnership Response

Worked with DWP to ensure residents have access to cash and benefits, identifying eligibility for Personal Independence Payments (PIP).

- Regularly visit hotel to engage with teenagers and parents.
- A community and youth engagement officer has been assigned and comes regularly to meet with the young people at the hotel

- Encourage residents to get Covid vaccinations and boosters
- Continue to promote good hygiene within the hotel, encouraging residents to wear masks, wash hands

- Worked closely with NWL to ensure all families registered with GPs. Working together to establish a practice nurse at the hotel
- Childhood immunisations provided
- Local dentists provided free dental check ups to residents in December

New dedicated staff team

Since December, we have started recruiting a dedicated team to provide wraparound support at the bridging hotel. Team are mostly in place pending secondment arrangements locally

Team Leader Afghan Bridging Hotel

Liaison Support
Officer

Liaison Support
Officer

Liaison Support
Officer

Liaison Support
Officer

Home Office update

- H&F committed to resettle six Afghan families in the borough.
 - Four families have already moved in
- Home Office have confirmed resettlement support and funding for all families in the hotel, allocations will be known at the end of January.
- Offers of accommodation have started but likely families will remain for another 6 months

Subscribe →

The
Guardian
For 200 years

News Opinion Sport Culture Lifestyle



Afghanistan

The Afghan judge working to free her sisters left behind

Fawzia escaped from Afghanistan. Now in London, she's trying to secure a safe exit for women still stranded

Diane Taylor

“In Kabul we lived in a big house. But now it doesn’t matter if we have a big house or a small house. For the first time since the Taliban took over Afghanistan I felt safe and slept well when we arrived in the UK. Here we can start again.”