



# Wolverhampton

## CITY OF SANCTUARY

*Proud to be a City of Welcome and Safety*

We at Wolverhampton City of Sanctuary are appealing for help from the good people of Wolverhampton and the surrounding area. We hold regular “Meet and Mingle” events that allow local citizens to meet asylum seekers who have been dispersed to our city. Many new friendships have developed from these functions. If you have not attended one then please do. You will be welcomed by a free buffet of international cuisine and enjoy a great evening of friendship.

Our organisation is beginning to get itself known within the city. We are receiving calls for help from many deserving people. We are small in number but have plans to make a big difference. To do this we must attract more supporters. If you think you could help, these are the sort of things that we need support for.

### **Maternity support.**

Many female asylum seekers are dispersed to Wolverhampton in the later stages of pregnancy. Most are unprepared for the birth and there is a need for women volunteers who are willing to help and advise them. We have a very small group of women who are undertaking this important work, but they need help. Recently, an asylum seeker who had a baby by caesarean section on a Friday was discharged from hospital on the following day. She had no money for a taxi and her NASS (National Asylum Support Service) accommodation was in an upstairs room. The volunteer that helped her even had to teach her how to feed her new born baby, and we had to find baby clothes etc. for her. If you can help, please get in touch.

### **Befriending**

If you feel able to offer time to visit isolated asylum seekers to offer friendship, please also get in touch. Many asylum seekers long to feel welcomed by the host community and to form friendships. This can be a source of solace in difficult circumstances, and just knowing that there is someone they can talk to can make all the difference.

### **Transport**

Asylum seekers operate with very little cash and this means that public transport or taxis are beyond them. There are times when asylum seekers have to attend doctors, hospital or solicitor appointments. All at City of Sanctuary help in these cases, but we are few in number, and there are many times when we are double booked. If you have a car, and are willing to spend time to help these needy people please get in touch.

### **Drop in Meetings**

For some time we have been planning to run weekly drop in meetings. It is a well-known fact that loneliness is a major cause of mental and physical ill health. Although we help to create friendships with our Meet and Mingle, this is not enough. We have now been offered a venue for a weekly meeting and are in the process of raising funding. We plan to offer a place of welcome where people will be met by friendly faces, a drink and a snack. We are to provide games for any children and, if storage is available, clothing. A number of people have already volunteered to attend the meetings in a support capacity, but we need more! If you can help...please get in touch.

### **Committee Meetings**

Our meetings are held in central Wolverhampton usually every two to three months. We would be delighted to welcome new members, especially if you have skills in organisation and administration.

**We know that we are asking a lot, but please remember, the more volunteers we attract the less there is for individuals to do.**

Please email [enquiries@wolvescofs.com](mailto:enquiries@wolvescofs.com)