NEWSLETTER NOV '25

Barnsley City of Sanctuary

City of Sanctuary is a national organisation of support groups throughout the UK making their cities, towns, schools and organisations places of welcome and hospitality for people seeking safety from persecution and war. If you would like to volunteer with the Barnsley group, please email info@barnsley.cityofsanctuary.org

Welcome

Welcome to the November '25 edition of the Barnsley Borough City of Sanctuary newsletter featuring all the latest on services and support available for refugees and asylum seekers across Barnsley!

In this edition we are focussing on stories about people who've come to Barnsley seeking safety and a new life, who have found a warm welcome and are making a home here. Whether it's working, volunteering or pursuing a sporting passion, they are making a positive difference.

You can catch up with volunteers at the Barnsley Refugee Bike Project, read about highlights from the summer, and find out about new initiatives like Beds for Babies. Our Useful Contacts section has also had a makeover with new categories so it's easier to find what you're looking for.

If you want to get in touch with ideas for content, please email us at:
info@barnsley.cityofsanctuary.org
Thank you!

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Your Refugee Council in Barnsley, Here to Help!

The Refugee Council is a national independent charity that works across the country to support refugees and asylum seekers. The National Refugee Council leads the Barnsley Refugee Council. The Barnsley Refugee Council has funding to work in Barnsley, offering support to Asylum Seekers and Refugees living in the town.

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Genna Prior
Community Development Worker
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Wellington House, 36 Wellington Street, Barnsley S70 1WA
Open 10.00am - 2.00pm Monday to Thursday
01226 320111

Bonolo's Story

It takes courage, skill and a cool head to drive a Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV), qualities that 32-year-old Barnsley resident, Bonolo, has shown that she has in bucket loads. She currently drives HGVs for a well-known haulage company, Eddie Stobart, delivering essential goods all over the country and helping to address the chronic shortage of HGV drivers in the UK. According to the Road Haulage Association, a further 200,000 recruits are needed over the next five years to keep supply chains going, so it is vital to attract women into the profession, especially as they currently only make up 1% of HGV drivers. Bonolo is one of the pioneering women showing the way for others to follow – even more remarkable given her start in life.

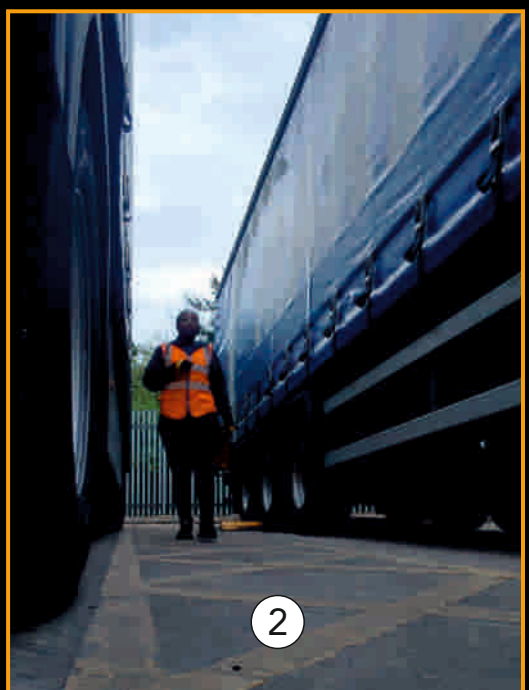
Bonolo grew up in Botswana and came to the UK in 2019 seeking asylum, arriving in Barnsley after a brief stay in Birmingham. She found it very hard to start with, but an introduction to the local Refugee Council team was a big help. Soon she was able to start making a home in Barnsley and getting involved in the community – first of all by finding a church and then applying to study at college.

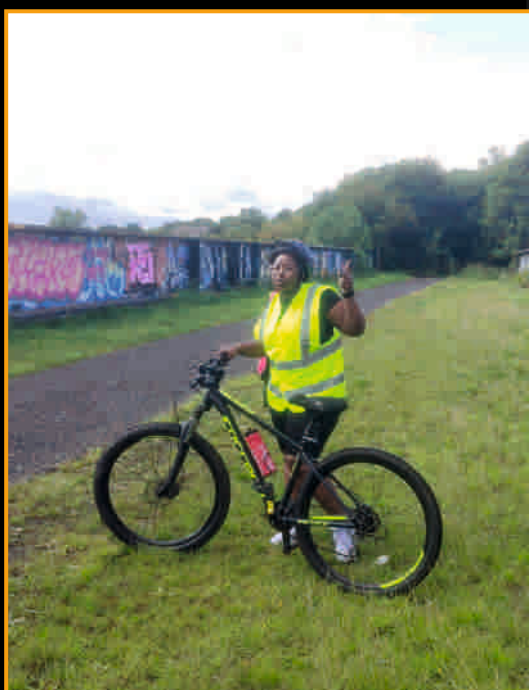
"It's not easy to just blend into a community where you've never been. It took courage, to be honest, but I'm someone who keeps going no matter how hard it is."

In Botswana, Bonolo had left school at a very young age and she longed to continue her education. "My dream was that one day I'd become a pilot if I went back to school properly. Coming here, the cherry on top of the cake was being able to restart my education at college. It was the greatest opportunity in my life, as I never thought I would go back to school. I was doing GCSEs and other courses all at once and I don't know how I passed them, but the teachers at college and friends around Barnsley and in the library helped. I used the library a lot! I did a Level 2 Health and Social Care course and thought about becoming a midwife, but I was worried about the funding. Then I fell in love with Carpentry and did Level 1 to Level 3, which I passed. I like being able to do things for myself, so when I got my own place, I could fix my own doors and kitchen cabinets, I didn't need to ask someone to do it for me. But I couldn't get a job in carpentry."

With leave to remain in the UK, Bonolo was able to work and wanted to get out and earn her living, so she secured a job as a cleaner at Barnsley Hospital. Getting to work required a long walk to and from the bus each day, so she decided to save up and learn to drive. It took a few goes but, with customary determination, she passed her test. This widened her opportunities for work, so she applied for another job as a support worker at a residential service for adults with a learning disability. The work involved supporting people with challenging behaviours and it was tough at times. Rather than give up, Bonolo remembered that she once thought of becoming a lorry driver, so she started saving money from her wages to train. It cost over £2,000 for a one-week fast-track course and it took her months to save up, but her sacrifice paid off:







"At the end of the training week, on the Friday, you take a test and you just have to pray to God that you pass it. If you fail, you have to pay again. I was really doing my best and I didn't think I would make it, but on my last day I passed the first test, then the second test. I didn't believe it was me, but I did it!"

It took a while to get her first job as an HGV driver, but she eventually managed to gain a part-time job at Jackman Haulage, a family-owned trucking business. One day, she saw an advert saying Eddie Stobart was recruiting for full-time posts, so she plucked up courage to go to the open day and was hired.

"I struggled for the first few weeks because now I was part of a big logistics company with contracts all over the country. It's quite challenging when going to places where you've never been and not everybody is nice, people can be rude, but I try to be bubbly, be nice, be respectful, have manners, no matter how much it hurts."

Bonolo prefers to work the night shift when the traffic is not so bad. "It's challenging driving a big lorry. You need to be alert, you need to plan ahead for places where there will be a lot of traffic, even at nighttime. If you take a wrong turn, it's difficult. I'm very religious, so I pray to God to give me the strength and the bravery to move that six-axle truck out of that tricky situation."

Despite these challenges, Bonolo loves her new profession: "I love being a lorry driver, it's so peaceful. You feel like you're on top of the world. The moment you get out of your cabin and open the doors at the back of your trailer, you think, 'Oh, how small am I!' But when you're up there in your cabin, you see everything. I find it very joyful, I love it."

When she's not driving round the country, Bonolo likes cycling and has volunteered with the Barnsley Refugee Bike Project to help others get affordable transport. She also likes cooking her favourite meals.

"I love cooking. I make all types of food, any cuisine. If I feel like having bangers and mash or a pie, I have bangers and mash or a pie. It just depends on my mood that day. I often cook meat with greens and maize-meal porridge, that's our staple food where I come from. I could eat it the whole year, it's quite nice.

"I really do love Barnsley, I'd much rather live here than anywhere else. There are people here who are very nice, and the architecture in the town centre is beautiful. Sometimes I dress up and go out into town and have fun, even though I was once attacked in town, I've looked past that. There are people here who are a blessing to me, and I appreciate them."





World Class KARATE KID

from Barnsley Still Faces an Uphill Battle

At seven years old, Mayon from Barnsley was the youngest person in the UK to gain a karate black belt, earning him the title of 'Karate Kid' at school. Success in competitions followed swiftly until eventually he was selected to represent England at the European Championships in November 2024, bringing back a bronze medal. Then in September this year, he won silver at the WSKA Karate World Championships 2025 in Spain. But the road to the World Championships was far from straightforward for Mayon and he still faces obstacles to making his sporting dreams come true.



His parents came to the UK from Sri Lanka in 2004 seeking asylum. Mayon was born in the UK, and his family moved to Barnsley in 2013 when he was three. It was at Barnsley Shokotan Karate Club that he first started his amazing journey to the World Championships. Inspired by watching his mother, Nilpuli, herself a black belt, Mayon started training aged just four years old. Children usually start learning karate aged seven, but Mayon's outstanding talent was already visible, and the Barnsley Club made an exception with approval from the Karate Union of Great Britain. It proved to be a good decision as this child prodigy went on to become a champion, attracting the attention of national selectors.

Yet despite all this success, it was only at the very last minute in November 2024, after a decade of applying, that Mayon was granted British citizenship and a passport to be able to travel to Portugal and compete in the European Championships. Even then, his parents could not travel with him as they were still waiting to be granted their British citizenship after 20 years of applying. When Mayon was selected to compete at the World Championships this year, the family faced the same heart-breaking dilemma and he had to go on his own, something he was very reluctant to do. Now he is training hard to be selected for the upcoming European Championships in Portugal this November and has his sights set on the 2032 Brisbane Olympics. Without passports, his parents will yet again be unable to join him, so the dilemma continues.

One of the main things that has kept Mayon's family going is the depth and breadth of local support. Barnsley people have rallied around and not only helped to lobby on Mayon's behalf for his passport but also helped in practical ways, like driving him to Leeds for his extra training sessions. This year, it was a donation of £300 from the Penistone Refugee and Asylum Seekers Support Group that made all the difference in the

run up to the World Championships, enabling Mayon to attend a special training camp at Lancaster. The group also paid £200 towards the fuel for Mayon to travel weekly to Leeds for his extra training and to contribute to his food bill for the World Championships in Spain.

Nilpuli, Mayon's mother, said:
"I want to sincerely thank the Penistone Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support Group on behalf of myself and Sanjaya for all the help and support you've given. Without this, Mayon wouldn't have been able to attend the extra training and special courses that prepared him for this achievement."

Now, as Mayon looks ahead to the Olympics in 2032, he and his body of local supporters are hoping he can secure sponsorship to help with further specialist training. And, above all, Mayon is hoping that his parents will be able to accompany him if he is lucky enough to be selected to represent his country on the Olympic team.





Community Open Mic Nights

at Library@Lightbox - 6.00-7.30pm





4th November | 2nd December | 13th January

Funded by UK Government

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Love where you live

BARNSLEY LIBRARIES





Mohammed's Story

A refugee from the civil war in Sudan, Mohammed has found a warm welcome and a future to look forward to in Barnsley. Here he describes his experience of growing up in Sudan, having to leave everything behind, and finding a new community in Barnsley.

My name is Mohammed. I am 33 years old and I live near to Barnsley town centre. I grew up in the beautiful city of Khartoum, the capital of Sudan. I lived in the eastern part of the city in a neighbourhood called East Aljarif. My family home was close to the banks of the River Nile.

I first went to school when I was seven years old. The school was a very long way from my home. After four years, I started at a new school which was in my neighbourhood. I was much happier there because the school was only a 20-minute walk from my home. Now I could see my friends more often and play with them at the end of school in the evenings.

I liked living near to the River Nile because, when I was 13 years old, my mum and dad let me go with my friends in the evenings to swim in this cooling river. It makes me smile when I remember the sunsets playing in the river with my friends from East Aljarif.

I loved to play football with all my friends from the local area. We often got together and we would pretend our teams were from the Premier League. My team would always be Liverpool and the other side would be Arsenal. Liverpool, my favourite team, would win every time.

I left school in 2010 and eventually I learnt to drive. I got a job as a truck driver, driving all over Sudan from city to city. I made deliveries to Omdurman and many other cities. I did this for five years. I like driving.

My best friend in Khartoum was also called Mohammed. It causes me great sadness and sorrow when I remember him because he was killed in the civil war. In 2020 life was very hard in Khartoum. The civil war was very dangerous, and the militia were very bad. In 2023 I left my country to find safety in the UK. I arrived in the UK in September 2023. I wanted to restart my life and escape the terrible danger that had killed my best friend.

When I arrived in the UK, I was sent firstly to Wakefield and then to Barnsley. Here I experienced peace and kind, generous people. I was welcomed by strangers. After a week or so in my new home, I started to discover places



to volunteer and join classes and groups. I found the Refugee Men's Group very helpful and friendly. I knew I had to keep busy and improve my English. I wanted to start driving again. I wanted to work and have a purpose.

I received my settled status from the Home Office in 2025. Andy, who supports the Refugee Men's Group, was then able to introduce me to the Employability Training Programme at FareShare Yorkshire, led by Rachel Morgan who is the Head of Human Resources. I have begun to find a purpose by being part of FareShare. I am doing good work in the warehouse helping to distribute food to the many local charities in the region. I am getting trained and learning new skills with the support of kind and helpful people. I am learning how the world of work operates here in the UK. People are very patient with me.

I want to get my provisional driving licence and learn to drive safely. I have already learnt new skills in the FareShare warehouse, improved my English and achieved a Level 2 Food and Hygiene Certificate with the help of my teacher, Chris.
I think improving my English skills is the most important thing I can do to help my future. I go to Barnsley College on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. I also attend the Adult and Community Learning Centre in Wellington House on Monday and Wednesday to improve my English.

I enjoy volunteering with the bike recycling project (see page 11) and also playing football with Reds Unite on Monday evenings at Barnsley Community FC. It's great fun to play indoors on the astro turf. I like to have a cuppa and a chat with the Men's Group when I can on a Tuesday before I go to my English class at the College just across the road. Keeping busy is important, it helps me think better.

People ask me what I like about Barnsley. I feel at peace here surrounded by kind people. I tried London, but it was too big, too noisy and too busy. I am safe in Barnsley with a future to look forward to.



Mohammed dreams of driving a truck like this one!

Barnsley Duo Selected for National Footie Squad

Two football enthusiasts from Barnsley, 18-year-old Behzad and 30-year-old Samer, have been selected to play for the national football squad, Fair Shot FC, a team of talented players with refugee backgrounds. Supported by the national Refugee Council and Comic Relief, Fair Shot is all about finding common ground in a shared love of "the beautiful game". To do this, Fair Shot partners with major clubs from across the English leagues. Together they run competitions that give fans the chance to take part in friendly five-a-side matches and challenges with Fair Shot FC.





Behzad and Samer were selected for the Fair Shot team after training with Reds Unite, the programme run by Barnsley FC Community Trust to encourage wider participation in football. Behzad first started playing an indoor version of football called Futsal in Afghanistan. A fan of Manchester United, he now plays for several Barnsley teams. Originally from the city of Sheik Miskeen in Syria, Samer follows Barcelona and his favourite player is Lionel Messi. Here are Behzad and Samer joining in the first Fair Shot training session of the new season...

To find out more about Fair Shot, visit: https://www.fairshot.org.uk/
To find out more about 'Reds Unite' and how to get involved, email: Leanne.Candler@barnsleyfc.co.uk







Barnsley Refugee Council Men's Group

Every Tuesday 12:30pm - 2:30pm

The Quaker Building
2a Western Street, Barnsley S70 2BP

Come for a cuppa and make new friends!

Find out what's happening and what's new in Barnsley...

Visits
Football
Events
Talks
Cricket
Walks
Biking
Refreshments

Please contact Genna for any enquiries
07388 990163

REFUGEE COUNCIL
THE NATION'S REFUGEE CHARITY





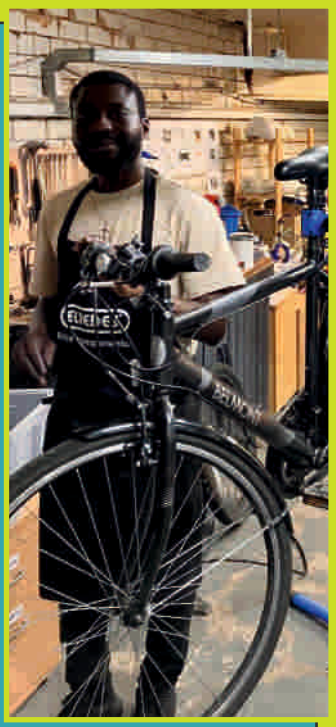






Teamwork Makes the Wheels Go Round

At the Barnsley Refugee Bike Project, it's the team of volunteers that makes all the difference. Asylum seekers and refugees who have received upcycled bikes from the project are now working alongside a team of five skilled bike mechanics – also volunteers – to learn how to repair and maintain their own bikes, as well as how to recycle more bikes for other people in need of affordable transport.



Alex Simon, the project leader, says:
"Our five dedicated mechanics have worked closely with over 15 refugee volunteers this past year, delivering bespoke training packages to each individual. Through this, our refugee volunteers have learnt vital employability skills, developed essential language skills and are now able to service and maintain their own bikes.

"Many of our volunteers have since secured employment or have undertaken college courses and they continue to attend our bike maintenance sessions, renovating bikes for people across the community."

Oluyemi, known as 'Olu', is one of the volunteers. He has a keen interest in how technology works and how to keep people safe from cybercrime, but he also likes practical activities, so he loves helping at the bike workshop:

"I like to manually work with my hands sometimes, like repairing, tidying up, or just physically engaging in hands-on activities, because this helps my brain positively in one way or the other, so this is why I like to volunteer at the workshop on Saturdays. Over time, I've learnt a lot of new skills on how to repair bikes, change broken bike parts, and how to fix my own bike wherever it breaks down.

"I'll always encourage others to volunteer because you're not just learning to fix a bike, but to meet great people as well."





COMMUNITY FUND

Project Manager Alex Simon explains that asylum seekers and refugees have been volunteering at the workshop from the day it opened in summer 2024. Mohammed is one such volunteer:

"Mohammed, whom we know as 'Big Mo', is a regular volunteer. He has helped to renovate bikes for hundreds of refugees and is a well-respected member of the team. He has worked hard to develop his maintenance skills and he is now able to service his own bike."

Mohammed wants to encourage others to volunteer:
"I enjoy volunteering with the Bike Repair Team on Saturdays because I like helping people and learning how to fix bikes. I've learned new skills like repairing brakes and changing tyres. I also enjoy meeting new people and working as a team.

"I would definitely encourage others to volunteer – it's a good way to learn, help the community, and make friends."

So far, 600 recycled bikes have been distributed since the Barnsley Refugee Bike Project first started. The workshop at Wellington House has enabled the scheme to go from strength to strength. Now the aim is to expand the volunteer team and continue to give pre-loved bikes a new life, as well as helping those in need with affordable transport.



Have a bike to donate? Contact:
Penistonebikedonations@outlook.com

Need a bike? Contact:
Abdel.Mohamed@RefugeeCouncil.org.uk

DIGITAL SUPPORT AT YOUR LOCAL CITIZENS ADVICE

citizens advice Barnsley

If you work with clients who are digitally excluded due to lack of skills, lack of equipment or lack of data - the Digital Inclusion Project at Citizens Advice Barnsley can help!

We provide a range of different services to help local people get online including:

- **Connect and Learn' Basic Digital Skills Courses**
- **One-to-One Appointments for help completing online activities**
- **Access to a Data Bank to provide SIM cards with mobile minutes and data**
- **Access to a Device Bank to provide refurbished laptops**

To book onto a 'Connect and Learn' Digital Skills Course or request an appointment, clients can self refer by completing our online booking form https://forms.gle/GapPzYoCVMKhdGvq8 or leaving a message on our answerphone: 01226 664482.
One of our friendly Digital Skills Coaches will get back in touch, usually within two working days.

Referrals for the Data Bank and Device Bank can be made by support workers or service providers but cannot come from the client directly. To make a referral to the Data Bank on behalf of a client, all you need to do is fill out our simple Data Bank Referral Form: https://forms.gle/AUpJTdrsBsc3cVMp9

To request individual refurbished laptops from the Device Bank, please complete the Refurbished Laptop Referral Form: https://forms.gle/mt31hKGo5h7fUTEGA

(Full eligibility criteria and referral information can be found on the forms. Please note that during busy periods we sometimes close the referral forms in order to manage demand and catch up with requests!)

COMING SOON:
Bulk laptop distribution!
If you regularly work with groups of digitally excluded clients, or anticipate needing to distribute multiple laptops to individual clients across the next 6 months - please drop us an email at digital.inclusion@barnsleycab.org.uk and we'll get back in contact when our next delivery of laptops arrives to arrange a referral for multiple devices.



Barnsley Refugee Women's Group



Every Wednesday 10:00am - 12 noon

Hope House Cafe, 2 Blucher Street, Barnsley S70 1AP

Find out what's happening and what's new in Barnsley...

REFUGEE COUNCIL
THE NATION'S REFUGEE CHARITY

Please contact us for any enquiries 01226 320 111

Volunteers needed at the Women's Group.
A chance to meet women from many cultures, have fun and help with activities.
To find out more, contact the Refugee Council above.

Multi-Agency Drop-in for Barnsley's Migrant Communities

Every Wednesday 12.30pm – 2.30pm

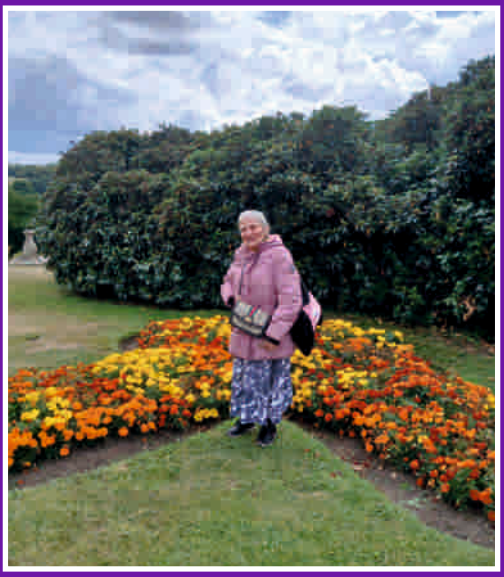
Hope House, Blucher Street, Barnsley S70 1AP

Information, support and advice on: migration, housing, work and benefits, health and wellbeing, education, volunteering, social activities, community groups, safety, children and youth services, Barnsley information, council services and more.

Free Hairdressing, Drinks & Snacks, Foodbank Referrals, Children's Activities

Everyone welcome!







Summer Trips

Throughout July and August, the Barnsley Refugee Advice Project (BRAP), the Refugee Council in Barnsley, was proud to organise and facilitate four enriching summer trips for asylum seeking and refugee families living in Barnsley. These outings provided a much needed opportunity for relaxation, cultural exploration, and community bonding.

28th July - Graves Park, Sheffield

Our summer programme began with a trip for 50 people to Graves Park, where families enjoyed the farm animals, scenic walks, and a shared meal under the beautiful summer sun. It was a heartwarming day filled with laughter, connection, and new friendships.

6th August - Cleethorpes Beach

We were thrilled to take 99 clients to the seaside at Cleethorpes. For many it was a powerful and emotional experience, one client shared that they hadn't seen the sea in over 10 years. The day was filled with joy, sandcastles, and memories that will last a lifetime.
A special thank you goes to the Penistone Refugee and Asylum Seekers Support Group for their generous contribution, which helped make this trip possible.

12th August - Yorkshire Sculpture Park

A smaller group of 12 clients enjoyed a peaceful day at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park, where they explored fascinating artworks and encountered the Park's beloved animals. It was a fantastic day that sparked curiosity and creativity.

29th August - Cannon Hall Park

Our final summer trip brought 15 senior clients to Cannon Hall Park for a visit to the museum and its beautiful grounds. The day ended with warm conversations over a nice hot coffee, an uplifting experience for all involved.

These trips offer more than just a day out, they provide a sense of hope, belonging, and acceptance. We were delighted to receive overwhelmingly positive feedback from attendees, and we're grateful to everyone who helped make these moments possible.

Summer Bike Rides

This summer, the Barnsley Refugee Bike Project organised two rides to Grenoside Woods and The Magic Wood, giving asylum seekers and refugees a chance to enjoy their recycled bikes for some much-needed leisure activity, taking in the wonderful countryside around Barnsley. Over the past year, these organised rides, led by qualified volunteers at the Bike Project, have attracted a total of 80 riders, cycling to various locations along the Trans Pennine Trail and helping new bike-riders to increase their cycling confidence.



Beds for Babies

We're excited to introduce you to Beds for Babies, an important new initiative in Barnsley designed to support local families in need and give our young people the best possible start in life.

This scheme aims to tackle bed poverty by providing safe sleep solutions, including cots, Moses Baskets, toddler beds, mattresses, and bedding bundles, to children under five who currently lack a suitable place to sleep.

Research shows that a good night's sleep is crucial for a child's learning and development. The benefits don't stop there, helping to improve the health and wellbeing of the whole family.

Beds for Babies is part of the Safe Place to Sleep programme led by South Yorkshire's Mayor Oliver Coppard.

How can I help?

If you work with families in Barnsley, you play a key role in identifying those who may benefit.

Who is eligible?

The scheme is available to anyone living in Barnsley, and items are available from pre-birth to children up to the age of five. The scheme is not means-tested and is accessible to all families who require support.

Who can refer?

A referral can be made by any professional or charity that has identified a family in Barnsley that's struggling to provide a safe space for their child to sleep.

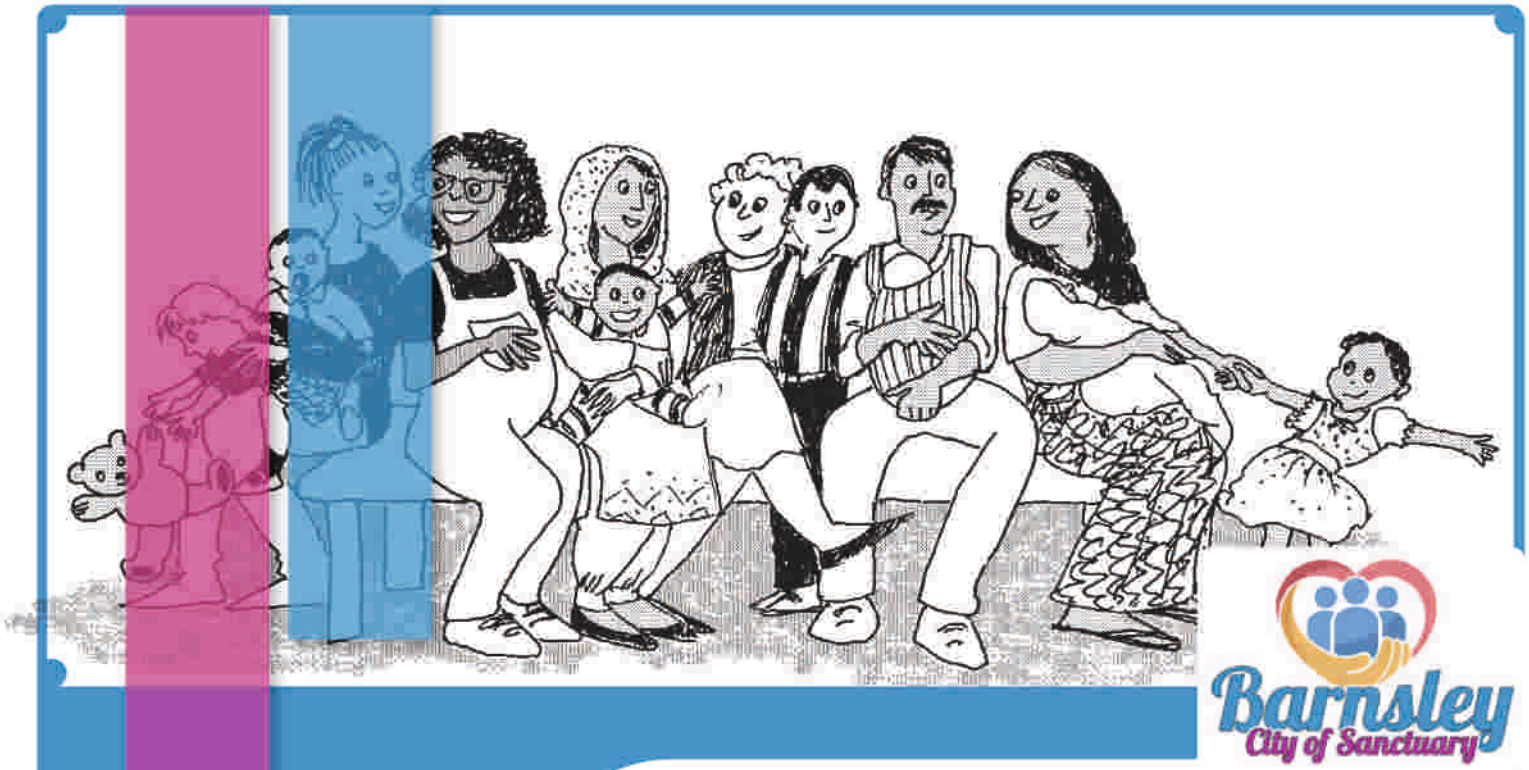
How can I make a referral?

Before submitting a referral, please ensure you have read our guidance, as it will be the referrer's responsibility to inform the family of the date the items will be delivered.
Practitioners are requested to complete the Beds for Babies e-form on
the Virtual Family Hub website.
Please ensure that you have consent from families before completing a referral to help with contact and delivery of the items.

If you have any questions or would like to know more, please get in touch with Amy Turner,
Early Help Assessment and Prevention Manager.
Email: AmyTurner@barnsley.gov.uk



HUBS and Start for Life



Barnsley City of Sanctuary

MAKING BARNSLEY A SAFE PLACE FOR THOSE FLEEING WAR AND PERSECUTION

OPEN MEETINGS
3-5pm on the First Monday of every month (not August)

Check website for venue

OUR AIMS

- Create a culture of welcome for asylum seekers and refugees, challenging hostility and discrimination in all its forms
- Publicise and celebrate the contribution of asylum seekers and refugees to their local communities and to UK society and culture
- Work with local communities and with other relevant organisations to support asylum seekers and refugees
- Campaign for the rights of asylum seekers and refugees and oppose anti-migrant legislation
- Encourage organisations and institutions in Barnsley (including BMBC) to become part of the City of Sanctuary national network
- Amplify the voices of people with lived experience to ensure they are central in our activities and decision making.

info@barnsley.cityofsanctuary.org
www.barnsley.cityofsanctuary.org

This page was designed by Zarbakht Saeed

Useful Contacts

Education

Adult Learning Services
Floor 2, Wellington House, Market St, Barnsley, S70 1WA
Tel: 01226 775270/775271
Email: adultlearning@barnsley.gov.uk I Website: www.barnsley.gov.uk/adultlearning

Education Learning Support Hub (ELSH)
Free ESOL/English courses, social and recreational facilities
First Floor, 29 Wellington Street, Barnsley, S70 1SW
Tel: 01226 249494 I Website: www.elshub.org.uk

Food

Barnsley Foodbank Partnership
Unit 14 Aldham Industrial Estate, Wombwell, Barnsley, S73 8HA
Tel: 01226 235280
Email: manager@barnsley.foodbank.org.uk I Website: https://barnsley.foodbank.org.uk

General Advice & Support

Barnsley Borough City of Sanctuary
Email: info@barnsley.cityofsanctuary.org I Website: https://barnsley.cityofsanctuary.org

Barnsley Refugee Advice Project (Refugee Council Barnsley) - Local Support
Open Monday - Thursday 10am-2pm
Wellington House, 36 Wellington St. Barnsley S70 1WA
Tel: 01226 320111 or 07917 135843

Barnsley Refugee Integration Service (BRIS)
Support for up to 6 months for those who have received a positive asylum decision
Tel: 01226 773439 or 07775 033443, 07392 277775 I Email: adviceservices@barnsley.gov.uk

Citizens Advice Barnsley
Advice on employment, housing, debt, benefits, tax credits and immigration issues
1 Wellington House, 36 Wellington Street, Barnsley S70 1WA
Tel: Freephone 0800 144 88 48 I Website: https://barnsleycab.org.uk/

Live Well Barnsley
For information on all kinds of services and groups
www.livewellbarnsley.co.uk and search on Refugee and Asylum Seekers

Barnsley Borough City of Sanctuary
Creating a culture of welcome and support collaboration
Email: info@barnsley.cityofsanctuary.org I Website: http://barnsley.cityofsanctuary.org

Migrant Action - Regional Support
Barnsley drop-in Wednesdays 12:30 - 2:30pm
Hope House Cafe, Blucher Street, Barnsley S70 1SW
Email: info@migrantaction.org.uk I Website: https://migrantaction.org.uk

Migrant Help - National Support
Help with accommodation, maintenance, ASPEN cards and relocation
Tel: 08088 010503 I Website: www.migranthelpuk.org

Groups for Asylum Seekers/Refugees

Feels Like Home
A social group for practising English, making friends and discovering Barnsley
Barnsley Museums Learning Lab, Town Hall, S70 2TA I Tel: Joanna: 07873 655035
Email: feelslikehome@barnsley.gov.uk Facebook: www.facebook.com/Feels-Like-Home-100877908934396

Men's Support Group
Meets every Tuesday 12:30pm - 2:30pm at: The Quaker Building, 2a Western Street, Barnsley S70 2BP
To join, Call Mohamed, Refugee Council Project Manager: 07917 135843

Women's Support Group
Meets every Wednesday 10:00am - 12:00pm at: Hope House Café, 2 Blucher Street, Barnsley S70 1AP
To join, Call Mohamed, Refugee Council Project Manager: 07917 135843

Health

Health Integration Team Barnsley
Support new asylum seekers and refugees and those not yet registered for health services
170a Sheffield Road, Barnsley S70 4NW I Email: healthintegrationteam@swyt.nhs.uk
Tel: 01226 731686 I Website: www.southwestyorkshire.nhs.uk/services/health-inclusion-team/

0-19 Public Nursing Service Barnsley
Supports children, young people and families of asylum seekers/refugees I Tel: 01226 774411
Email: 0-19healthteam@barnsley.gov.uk I Facebook: www.facebook.com/BarnsleyPHNS

Legal Advice

South Yorkshire Refugee Law & Justice - Free legal advice for people across South Yorkshire
Referrals by email to: info@syrlj.org.uk I Website: www.syrlj.org.uk

Safety

Emergencies - Life-threatening illness or injury and Crime including Hate Crime
Call 999 and ask for an Ambulance or Police (or non-emergency, 111 for illness/injury, 101 Police)

Reporting Hate Crime - Website: www.southyorks.police.uk/hatehurts
Call 101 or if you are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired, textphone 18001 101 or SMS 07786 220 022
Contact Hate Crime Coordinator Barnsley, Rachael Ferrington, Call 01226 736372 or 07464 985266

IDAS
For those experiencing or affected by domestic violence or sexual abuse.
Tel: 03000 110 110 Email: info@idas.org.uk Website: www.idas.org.uk

Barnsley BRIGHT NIGHTS



FREE EVENT
Fri 21 & Sat 22 November 2025
5–8.30pm
Various locations around Barnsley town centre

Join us for a spectacular light art festival over two nights

Scan the code to find out more details.

Supported using public funding by ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND
LOTTERY FUNDED

visitbarnsley.co.uk/brightnights

BARNSLEY

Barnsley Christmas Market

29 Nov - 21 Dec

visitbarnsley.co.uk/christmasmarket2025

MARKET PLACE
THE GLASS WORKS
BARNSLEY