

Support for Refugees and Asylum Seekers in North East England According to Type of Support



Organisations which offer support with:

Clothing and household necessities for refugees and asylum seekers in the North-East:

- **Pact House** (County Durham): Supports local people, including refugees and asylum seekers, experiencing food poverty with food packs and through low-cost and free meals in the community café. They also help people access services and information to improve their quality of life, which may include assistance with household needs.
- **Justice and Peace** (Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle, Newcastle upon Tyne): Supports asylum seekers and destitute individuals by providing food, free Wi-Fi, toiletries, clothes, bedding, and shoes. There is also a hardship fund for destitute asylum seekers.
- **Peace of Mind CIO** (Gateshead and North Shields): Offers practical and emotional support, including help with translation, registering with a GP, finding a solicitor, healthy living, food parcels, clothing, baby equipment, settling into the community, and assistance with destitution issues.
- **STARCH – South Tyneside Asylum Seekers and Refugees Church Help:** Some Weekly drop-ins centres provides clothes, toys, and household items alongside advice and support services.
- **West End Foodbank** (Newcastle): Supports anyone in crisis, including refugees and asylum seekers, with emergency food parcels and advice on accessing further support services. While mainly food-focused, foodbanks often also have household essentials available.
- **Churches Together** North Shields: Provides essential homeware, clothing, and food, and assists people in accessing legal, medical, and other advice.
- **Love Amelia** (Sunderland and South Tyneside): A children's charity offering support to families experiencing poverty and hardship, including those from refugee and asylum-seeking backgrounds. Support includes essential items for children, and while referrals must be made by professionals, they specifically mention support for families in need.

Other organisations such as Friends of the Drop-In for Asylum Seekers and Refugees (FODI) and the British Red Cross may also provide practical help with clothing and household essentials

Education and English Language Support for Refugees and Asylum Seekers

The North East of England and Teesside host a number of organisations dedicated to supporting refugees and asylum seekers, particularly with English language provision. These organisations deliver a range of services, from formal ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes to informal conversation groups and one-to-one support. Below is an overview of some of the main providers in the region.

- **North East Migration Partnership (NEMP)**
NEMP coordinates support for refugees and asylum seekers, including signposting to English language classes across the region. Their website provides a directory of ESOL providers and community groups.
- **Action Foundation**
Based in Newcastle, Action Foundation offers free English language classes for refugees and asylum seekers at various levels. They also run conversation groups and support integration through language learning.
- **Refugee Futures**
Operating in Teesside, Refugee Futures provides ESOL classes and helps connect refugees and asylum seekers with local colleges and community groups that offer English language support.
- **Teesside University**
Teesside University offers support for refugee and asylum seeker students, including English language tuition and access to resources for improving language skills.
- **Newcastle City Council & Middlesbrough Council**
Local authorities often facilitate access to ESOL provision through adult education services, libraries, and community centres. They may also collaborate with charities and voluntary organisations to extend language support.
- **The Red Cross**
The British Red Cross runs orientation and integration support for refugees, which often includes English language learning opportunities.
- **Conversation Groups and Community Centres**
Various community centres in Sunderland, Durham, Gateshead, Stockton-on-Tees, and Hartlepool host informal conversation groups and drop-in sessions for practising English in a friendly environment.
- **Churches and Faith Groups**
Many churches and faith-based organisations across the North East offer free English language classes and conversation groups to support integration.
- **North East Solidarity and Teaching (NEST)**

Based at Newcastle University, NEST provides volunteer-led English language support tailored for refugees and asylum seekers.

Refugees and asylum seekers seeking English language support can contact these organisations directly or ask for referrals through local councils, libraries, or community centres. Most services are free or low-cost and cater to a variety of proficiency levels.

Homelessness for Refugees and Asylum Seekers in the North-East

Based on the provided list, the following organisations specifically offer support related to homelessness for refugees and asylum seekers:

- **Oasis Community Housing** (Gateshead and Sunderland)
Provides housing, support, and crisis services for vulnerable people, including refugees and asylum seekers at risk of homelessness.
Website: www.oasiscommunityhousing.org
- **Open Door North East** (Teesside)
Helps refugees to settle in the North-East by facilitating access to services, legal support, increased skills and employability, and tackling the urgent problem of homelessness. Serves asylum seekers, refugees, and other migrants in the Tees Valley.
Website: <https://www.opendoornortheast.com/>
- **Depaul UK – Nightstop North East** (multiple locations)
Offers emergency accommodation for young people experiencing homelessness, including refugees and asylum seekers, in the homes of vetted volunteers.
Website: www.depaul.org.uk/nightstop/
- **The Hub at Westgate Baptist Church** (Newcastle upon Tyne)
Gives advice about rights and emergency support for homeless and destitute asylum seekers, including showers and food.
- **Justice and Peace** (Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle)
Supports asylum seekers and destitute asylum seekers, providing food, toiletries, clothes, bedding, shoes, and a hardship fund for destitute asylum seekers.
- **West End Foodbank** (Newcastle)
Supports anyone in crisis, including refugees and asylum seekers, with emergency food parcels and advice on accessing further support services.
Website: newcastlewestend.foodbank.org.uk
- **Pact House** (Stanley, County Durham)
Supports people in the local community, including refugees and asylum seekers in food poverty, with food packs and through low cost and free meals in the community café. Helps people to access services, training, and information to improve their quality of life.
- **Friends of the Drop-In for Asylum Seekers and Refugees (FODI)** (Sunderland)

Offers a wide range of services and activities to enable asylum seekers to negotiate the application process and integrate into the local community, with a focus on mental health and practical support, which may include help with homelessness.

Website: <https://fodisunderland.org/>

- **British Red Cross Refugee Support** (multiple locations)

Delivers emergency support, practical help, and advice for refugees and asylum seekers, including orientation services, help with accessing healthcare, and assistance with family reunion processes. This may include help for those at risk of homelessness.

Website: www.redcross.org.uk

If you require further details about a specific service, please refer to the organisation's website or contact them directly for tailored support.

Housing Support for Refugees and Asylum Seekers in the North-East

Below is a list of organisations from your provided information that specifically offer help with housing issues to refugees and asylum seekers:

- **Communities Together** (County Durham):
Collaborates with Mears Housing and provides assistance with housing among other basic needs.
- **Durham County Council (DCC):**
Delivers five programmes including support with housing, planning, and access to Housing Solutions.
- **Pact House (County Durham):**
Supports people in poverty, including refugees and asylum seekers, through food packs and help accessing services, which can include housing-related support.
- **Quaking Houses Village Hall** (County Durham):
Offers advice and support to the community about benefits, grants, energy saving, and accessing other services such as housing.
- **Gateshead Council:**
Has a dedicated team at Housing Support Services, running a government-approved refugee settlement scheme with a focus on housing for Syrian refugees and those with Leave to Remain status.
- **Oasis Community Housing** (Gateshead and Sunderland):
Provides housing, support, and crisis services for vulnerable people, including refugees and asylum seekers at risk of homelessness.
- **South Tyneside Housing Service:**
Offers housing support for refugees and those with Humanitarian Protection.
- **Northumberland County/City of Sanctuary:**
Signposts to housing services at their weekly drop-in sessions.

- **Outreach from the Red Cross (North East Migration Partnership):**
Provides contacts for help with housing problems, particularly relating to Mears (housing provider) or the Home Office.
- **Northumberland Learning and Skills (North East Migration Partnership):** Signposts to housing services as part of their broader support offering.
- **Open Door North East (Teesside):**
Facilitates access to services including legal support and tackling homelessness for asylum seekers, refugees, and other migrants.
- **Turn2Us (Teesside):**
Offers support with housing and subsistence for asylum seekers and their families.
- **Depaul UK – Nightstop North East (Multiple Locations):**
Offers emergency accommodation for young people, including refugees and asylum seekers, in the homes of vetted volunteers.
- **British Red Cross Refugee Support (Multiple Locations):**
Provides practical help and advice for refugees and asylum seekers, including orientation services and help with accessing housing.

Additionally, several other organisations provide signposting and support which may include housing-related assistance as part of their broader services.

Legal Help and Advice

The following organisations from the provided list offer assistance and advice on legal matters to refugees and asylum seekers in the North-East:

- **Communities Together (County Durham) –**
Collaborates with others to provide legal advice as part of their comprehensive support for refugees and asylum seekers.
- **North East Law Centre (Newcastle and Middlesbrough) –**
Provides free and low-cost legal advice and representation, including help with immigration, asylum applications, and appeals.
- **Justice First (Stockton on Tees) –**
Specialises in legal advice and representation for refugees and asylum seekers, focusing on fair treatment and access to justice.
- **Turn2Us (Middlesbrough) –**
Offers asylum law advice, support and referrals, and helps with accessing solicitors.
- **Open Door North-East (Teesside) –**
Facilitates access to legal support for refugees and asylum seekers.
- **North of England Refugee Service (NERS) –**
Provides advice and guidance, including legal matters, to refugees and asylum seekers.
- **British Red Cross Refugee Support –**

- Offers practical help and advice, including assistance with family reunion processes, which often involve legal matters.

In addition, several community organisations and councils may offer signposting or basic legal guidance as part of their wider support, but the above groups specifically mention legal advice or representation as part of their services.

Support for women (and girls).

- Halo Project Charity (Middlesbrough): Specialises in safeguarding and providing culturally appropriate, confidential advice, help, and support to Black and minoritised women and girls who are at risk of, or are survivors of, domestic and sexual violence and abuse. This includes safe accommodation, outreach, safety planning, and ongoing support.
- West End Women and Girls Centre (Newcastle upon Tyne): Provides advocacy, practical support, and community activities specifically for women and girls, including those from refugee and asylum-seeking backgrounds. Their focus is on empowerment, social inclusion, and access to essential services.

Other organisations may support women as part of their broader remit, but these two are exclusively dedicated to women and girls.

Help to find volunteering opportunities:

Durham County Council (DCC) –

The Council incorporates volunteering as part of its comprehensive support programmes for refugees and asylum seekers, helping individuals access volunteering and vocational training opportunities alongside housing, education and community integration.

- **St James’s Church, Newcastle upon Tyne –**
Offers signposting to volunteering opportunities, alongside other support services such as wellbeing activities, foodbank vouchers, and social events.
- **Open Door North-East (Teesside) –**
Their mission includes empowering those seeking sanctuary, and they mention volunteering programmes as part of their integration activities for refugees, asylum seekers and migrants.
- **Turn2Us (Middlesbrough) –**
In addition to legal advice and support, Turn2Us is involved in campaigning, refugee awareness training and volunteering programmes.
- **Young Asian Voices (YAV), Sunderland –**
Offers opportunities for employability, volunteering, community engagement and sport, supporting young refugees and asylum seekers.

- **Depaul UK – Nightstop North East –**
- Engages volunteers to provide emergency accommodation for young people, including refugees and asylum seekers, in the homes of vetted volunteers.
- **Together with Refugees –**
As a coalition, this group often works with partners and volunteers to deliver support and advocacy for refugees and asylum seekers.
- **Walking With (Wallsend) –**
Their centre provides a welcoming environment and is supported by volunteers who assist with befriending, support and empowerment activities.
- **Friends of the Drop-In for Asylum Seekers and Refugees (FODI),**
- Sunderland – As a community-focused organisation, FODI relies on volunteers to run activities and support services for asylum seekers and refugees.

Many other community centres, churches, and local charities listed may also offer volunteering opportunities as part of their wider support services, even if not explicitly stated in this summary. If you would like more details about volunteering roles or how to get involved, it is recommended to contact these organisations directly using the contact details provided in the list.