

Supporting refugees

By and large we expect to be working with asylum seekers/refugees who have case workers. However, this may not always be the case. It is important that IL buddies do not take on any case work, but we can provide information and information is power, especially when you are in such a vulnerable situation.

Process - As soon as an asylum seeker is granted refugee status, this can often be the most precarious moment for them within the system:

- **They need to wait for a letter which announces the 28-notice period** for them to vacate their current premises and find somewhere else to live. This is challenging, because legally, asylum seekers cannot work and therefore, cannot save for a deposit.
- Once they have received this official letter, they can go directly to their **Council's housing services** to apply for accommodation. Again, given the high demand, this is not always the route which will be able to provide them with accommodation, especially at such short notice. They may suggest the refugee seeks private accommodation.
- **There are charities or housing associations** which support refugees with this issue, and these are generally location specific.
- **Accessing jobs during** this time is also another big challenge, there are organisations which can support with training. You can also help brainstorm what initial jobs that have low barriers to entry they can find and where to find. More information here <https://www.infolatinos.co.uk/informacion-trabajo> or speak to the Info Latinos team.

For England wide

- Refugee Council <https://refugeecouncil.org.uk/> - access to training, housing support, information for example a Guide to making a homelessness application for refugees <https://refugeecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Good-Practice-Guide.pdf>
- Breaking Barriers (access to jobs) <https://breaking-barriers.co.uk/>

For Manchester

- Stride Partnership <https://stridepartnership.org.uk/> who provide housing and general immigration support to refugees
- Ashton Pioneer Homes <https://www.ashtonpioneerhomes.co.uk/> – Charitable organisation which supports access to Social Housing

For the North of England and East Midlands

- Jigsaw Housing Group <https://www.jigsawhomes.org.uk/information-article/about-jigsaw/> - largest housing group