
Compassionate Kenilworth Asylum Seeker Support Update

2022/23



Asylum Seeker Support

Compassionate Kenilworth have been working to support temporarily placed Asylum Seekers who are living in hotel accommodation since November 2021. As a charity, we have raised funds, collected clothing and set up a successful English language program that has now been operating for over a year. We have instigated access to sports and physical activity, supported guests to access volunteering opportunities and supported those who have been moved into dispersal accommodation. From a group of two to a body of over 30 registered and DBS checked volunteers, we have prioritised the safety and dignity of the group we are supporting. We have been conscious of the political situation with regard to Asylum Seekers and have done our best to provide much needed clothing, essential items and the opportunity to learn English without impacting on the needs of the local population.

Locally placed Asylum Seekers have been placed in shared hotel accommodation. They have access to meals and a shared room. They are not entitled to any government benefits, just an allowance of £9.25 per week. Asylum Seekers are not allowed to work but can volunteer. They have access to NHS services. There is no provision of clothing or other items other than what local charities and the local community can provide.

Compassionate Kenilworth along with the Kenilworth Centre and support from the Rotary, Lions & Soroptimists and local church groups and other partners and friends have been working to provide some level of support since November 2021

What have we done?

Clothing Provision

CK worked with **Welcome Here** from November to May 2022 to provide donated and purchased clothing, on site at the hotel, on a weekly basis.

May 2022 onwards – CK developed a booking system at the hotel which allows individuals to request specific items which we do our best to source via clothing donation stock. We are able to source some items second hand via shout outs, donation drives and through partners with GAIN and local charity shops.

Future clothing stream – CK are developing partnerships with Warwick University Sustainability Team, Residential Team and STAR volunteers. Continued access via GAIN redistribution program and looking for additional options for accessing clothing ongoing.

Based on our recordings, we estimate that we have offered clothing to over 230 individuals and have provided numerous children with uniform to start school.



What have we done?

English Language Sessions

Starting in March 2022 with a simple assessment tool, we developed a three tier English language program to offer differing levels of English language support to Asylum Seekers at the hotel. With a key planning group of 3 teachers with backgrounds in Primary, Secondary, Tertiary & ESOL

Over the past year we have delivered a full academic year of teaching with a rolling pool of volunteers who have offered opportunities to practice English, learn about life in Warwickshire and develop English speaking, writing and listening skills. While we are not an alternative to ESOL courses, we provide an immediate opportunity for Asylum Seekers to learn and connect with local volunteers.

We are developing constantly and working closely with Warwickshire County Council to access resources, training and funding to help us to continue to deliver this much needed support. Volunteers and learners develop their skills and knowledge and both get so much out of this interaction.

Based on our records, we have delivered 39 x 2 hour English Sessions to over 100 different learners.



Hello!

Hi!

How are you?

Goodbye!

Friends & Partners

Development of partnerships

Compassionate Kenilworth Partnerships



Friends & Partners

Opportunities/relationship building

CK has been the consistent organisation regularly supporting those in the hotel since November 2021 and as such the first point of contact for other organisations. We have worked with **Warwickshire Libraries Alive Project** to deliver in house art workshops which culminated in an exhibition of residents work at **Kenilworth Library**.

CK worked with **Flying Seagull Theatre Company** to offer a theatre production on site in the hotel for children and families to access during February half term.

CK delivered an arts workshop last summer in conjunction with a professional artist, where the results were included in a larger installation at **Art in the Park** in Leamington.

CK developed a partnership with **Central England Law Centre (CELC)** and **Warwick University Law Department** to run a summer internship for a law student to interview residents and gather data for CELC to develop policy.

CK has been working closely with **the Kenilworth Centre** and **Onside Coaching** to access sports for all and to offer school holiday places for children and young people. We have been raising funds to book the local football Astroturf pitch, collecting donations of sports wear and football boots as well as Onside working hard to set up friendly matches against local football teams, with the aim to support residents to connect with members of the community and play a universal sport.

Friends & Partners

Together through Sport – CK and tKC have partnered with **PE Sports International**, a charity who deliver sporting opportunities in refugee camps and places with dispersed Asylum Seekers throughout Europe. Currently playing volleyball and other sports on a weekly basis at the Kenilworth Centre. Several of the residents are undergoing **Sports Leadership Qualifications** through this program.

The Kenilworth Centre has trialled a 10 week program called **Community Kitchen**, where they open up the kitchen space to a group of residents. This allows residents to use the kitchen and cook for themselves and their peers. This will commence post Ramadan and offer residents an opportunity to cook for themselves food that provides comfort and familiarity.

CK has received wonderful donations from a variety of groups and individuals in the town and would like to thank everyone who has contributed in any way to funding.

We would like to thank the following for raising funds or donating equipment and resources to allow us to continue to deliver our support: Kenilworth Rotary Club, Kenilworth Lions, Warwickshire Singers, Onside Coaching, the Kenilworth Centre, Soroptimists, Milk & Mocha as well as all of the individuals who have volunteered or donated to allow us to continue to help.

the Kenilworth Centre Partnership

Community Kitchen:

A space where asylum seekers who have not been able to cook for themselves while living in hotel accommodation are provided ingredients and a space to cook and share the food with friends and peers. Allowing a different resident each week over 10 weeks to cook and serve a meal familiar to them in a community setting. This provides a chance for connection, use of community space and outdoor recreation area and practice of English as well as sharing familiar food.

This was a highly successful program which tKC and CK will continue to partner again to deliver. Prior to each session a different Asylum Seeker was offered the opportunity to cook. They would email their ingredients to tKC who then sourced ingredients for the session.

The group would use the community space (TV, Pool Table, Sports Court, Newspapers, Jigsaws, Games etc) as well as using the time to practice English and connect with the community through their interaction with local volunteers while the nominated cook would cook for their peers.

The kitchen has created world recipes from Palestine, Iran, Georgia, Syria, Afghanistan & Eritrea. Recipes such as: Falafel, Mukshaka, Aubergine & Rice dishes, sharing skills, cooking techniques and recipes from their homes.

The atmosphere was amazing with great feedback from participants: 'thank you for your help, we loved today', 'I feel like I am happy again'.

Due to the success of these sessions, we have been able to secure funding to deliver another block of 8-10 sessions.

We aim to collate all recipes to bring together into a Community Kitchen recipe booklet.

Numbers of participants: 104 individuals attended over 10 sessions.

Examples of events

Laugh N Play 2023
13th-24th February



Art workshop

A free arts workshop with Karen Deasy

All Welcome - come and try your hand at creating artwork, to be exhibited as part of a community installation at Art in the Park, Leamington, on 13-14 August.

Karen will bring all equipment

Dining Hall

Wednesday 27 July &
Wednesday 3 August
1.30-3.30

For more information email
Becky at r.webb@kc19.uk
<https://www.artinpark.co.uk/>



FOOTBALL

**FRIDAY NIGHT
8-9PM**

Meadow Community Sports Centre
Kenilworth School
Leyes Lane
Kenilworth
CVB 2DA

Leave hotel at 6.15pm to walk to ground

Take water and wear suitable clothing

For more information email becky at r.webb@kc19.uk

رياضة السبت للكبار
كرة السلة والكرة الطائرة سيدات = 10:45 - 10:00
كرة السلة والكرة الطائرة رجال وسيدات = 12:00 - 10:45
مدربين رياضيين لدعم الجميع

Team PE International

SATURDAY 28TH JANUARY

SATURDAY SPORT!

Fun games and music

10:00 - 10:45 = Women's basketball and volleyball
10:45 - 12:00 = Men and women's basketball and volleyball

SPORTS COACHES TO SUPPORT EVERYONE

Basketball

Volleyball

AT THE KENILWORTH CENTRE

ورزش شنبه برای بزرگسالان
ISBOORTIGA SARTIDA EE DADKA WAAWEYN

10:00 - 10:45 = Kubadda kolayga ee haweenka iyo kubbadda laliska
10:45 - 12:00 = Kubadda kolayga iyo kubbadda laliska ee ragga iyo dumarka
Tababarayaasha isboortiga si ay u taageeraan qof walba

بسکتبال و والبال بانوان = 10:45 - 10:00
بسکتبال و والبال آقایان = 12:00 - 10:45
و بانوان
مربیان ورزشی برای حمایت از همه