

Agenda item 4

For information - Update on support the Refugee Community in Frome

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Dmytro Romaniuk and Iryna Ladyzhenska have been employed by Frome Town Council for one year to support the Refugee Community in Frome and the surrounding areas. Core funding comes from CHARIS who provide wrap around resettlement services in Somerset and includes a small budget to cover their management by FTC staff and office costs.

Both contracts are for 18.5 hours per week and started on October 10th.

The roles of Hub Co-ordinator and Social Facilitator will work in partnership with local refugees to assess what is working well, and what needs developing in order to shape a service that positively engages with those already living in the area and supports those who newly arrive.

Both employees are Ukrainian citizens and will take over from the support work that has so far been done by volunteers at Frome Welcomes Refugees.

The intention is to host a weekly space at the Town Hall café to enable all refugees to find out information, be signposted to relevant services or connect with other refugees.

Work priorities will include:

- Providing a weekly 'hub' space with opportunity for Welfare checks in Frome
- Understanding the current housing crisis and where to signpost – development of a campaign to encourage more host families to sign up to the Homes for Ukraine Scheme
- Working in partnership with Frome Welcomes Refugees, TwentyFifty and English Language teachers for a smooth transition from support to date.
- Connecting with the Refugee communities in the outlying villages – particularly around Norton St Philip.
- Creating links with key providers, such as, CAB, Fair Frome, Job Centre, Somerset Resettlement Team, Mendip Housing Team, Purple Elephant, Local Schools, Frome Community Transport, Trowbridge College.
- Supporting cultural and social opportunities – Singing Workshops, Cookery Courses, Forest School, Tree Planting, a Christmas theatre visit and hosts support sessions
- Linking with other Somerset Hubs in Yeovil, Bridgwater, Sedgemoor, Wells and Taunton.

Please see the link below to the updated Frome Town Council Refugee Support Web Page and do share it.

<https://www.frometowncouncil.gov.uk/your-community/community/frome-refugee-support-hub/>