# Bromsgrove Welcomes Refugees

## Update January 2016

A number of Councils are set to discuss the arrival of refugees to the county in a series of meetings later this month.

Worcestershire County Council and Bromsgrove District Council have approved schemes to welcome refugees but have yet to receive any people from the Vulnerable Person Scheme or been notified of a date for their arrival.

It is thought that refugees will come to the county under an agreement involving all six district councils, the leaders of which will meet county council chiefs later in January to decide upon their united joint approach. We understand there may also be similar meetings of council Chief Executive Officers.

*Bromsgrove Welcomes Refugees* aims to work with the local authority to supplement and complement this project.

We are already promoting the issue locally, collecting volunteer names, contact details and skills and other contributions that can be offered once the refugees reach our town.

In the near future we are planning to visit Coventry, which has already taken over 100 refugees, to learn good practice from their experiences.

We are meeting Kevin Dicks, Chief Executive Officer of Bromsgrove District Council, later this month to discuss what Bromsgrove is planning and how we can be usefully involved.

**NEXT PUBLIC MEETING. This will be held on Wednesday 17th February, 8.00 pm**, at the new Council House, Stourbridge Road. We invite all who are interested in this very important issue. There is free parking after 7.00 pm in Parkside Car Park just over Market Street, very near the new Council House, and in the Stourbridge Road Car Park..

The meeting will include :

* An update of what our local authority has decided and is planning.
* Prof. Jenny Phillmore speaking on refugee integration and the issues involved. (See her details above).
* A speaker from either Birmingham or Coventry, or possibly from Refugee Action, explaining how things are going so far with refugees already being resettled in our neighbouring communities.
* Next steps: what BWR is proposing we now do in Bromsgrove and how to involve the people of Bromsgrove in welcoming refugees to our community.

**THREE OPPORTUNITIES:**

1. **Arabic lessons.** We have started these on Tuesday evenings, open to anyone. \*

2 . S**afeguarding training session on 19th January**. \*

3. T**raining day in Malvern on March 5th** run by Professor Jenny Gillimore, Director of IRiS, Birmingham University’s research group into migrant integration. She is an internationally recognised expert on this subject. The training involves help dispelling myths surrounding bringing refugees to our communities, and training about needs of such organisations as police, health, education etc. To take part please contact us.\*

**\*To take part in any of these please contact Mike Carrick, 29 Malvern Road, Bromsgrove, B61 7HE**

#### 01527 873135 0789 4351 306

**PLEAS FOR HELP**

1. Many people are already offering furniture to help the refugees who will be setled here. As yet we have no place for furniture storage. All offers and ideas are welcome.
2. We are currently setting up a bank account. Once this is established we will welcome financial donations.

*For further details and enquiries please contact the Secretary, Janet King, 110 Lindhurst Rd, Blackwell, Bromsgrove, B60 1BS. Tel 0121 445 2802 Janetking110@gmail.com.*