

How we work with Asylum Seekers

There has been lots of press coverage recently about the migrants who are drowning in the Mediterranean en route to Europe.

For many in our society, those hundreds of people aboard those rickety boats remain countless unknown faces, judged by a lot of people who have no idea of their awful circumstances and living conditions.

But across Greater Manchester, Home-Start supports many Asylum Seekers, who even when they reach the UK live in the most dire of circumstances. Life here is an equally difficult for them, but for different reasons; there are language barriers, changes to government protocols and simply accessing what support is on offer can be trial and error.

Despite the view of many, Asylum Seekers are not entitled to money, only vouchers which make things like food shopping very restrictive. They also have to relive the horrors of their stories time and time again for government officials. On top of that, they are often dealing with severe mental trauma; isolation, loneliness and deprivation.

We also need to remember that many Asylum Seekers in Britain today, have held down responsible, professional jobs in their own countries. One of our Home-Starts for instance supports an Asylum seeking family where the mum was a teacher and her husband a university lecturer in their home country of Iran. We must not forget that many people seeking Asylum do it out of desperation, not because they want to leave their homeland for a life in the UK.

Over forty years ago, Home-Start was born out of an ethos not to judge families who need support. In 2015 that ethos remains as strong now as it did back then. We will support any family that needs our help, despite their circumstances. Sometimes it's the smallest things that make the biggest difference. A friendly face of a volunteer once a week, a trusted Home-Start coordinator who can support with language barriers or food parcels. Regardless of what type of family Home-Start supports here in Greater Manchester, we do so with one clear vision- to give all parents a helping hand in improving their and their children's live chances.

To find out more about our work visit www.home-start.org.uk