

Destitution Project Impact Report July - Sept 2023

Food Support: parcels

Destitute Asylum Seekers (DAS)
incl unregistered DAS: **10**
Asylum Seekers: **495**

Food support financial:

Food parcels: **£5808**
Vouchers - **£80**
Emergency funding: medical, essential travel, accommodation, cash support. **£82.50**

Casework sessions

Face to face: **40**
Remote: **198**
Walk-in: **26**
New Service Users registered: **1**
Files closed: **3**
Active asylum cases: **176**
incl **3 DAS**

Drop in Attendance

Total: **715**
Average: **55**

Agencies that Destitution Project (DP) has connected with:

Rainbow Haven, NACCOM, Refugee Action, Red Cross, Migrant Help, Bolton SERCO Housing' Mental Help Support workers, Solicitors

Key learning to take forward

- The Home Office announcement that Albania is a safe country, has meant that Albanian cases have no right to appeal in the tribunal court if their case gets refused. This has caused a lot of distress among the Albanian asylum seekers in Bolton and increase in requests for support from casework. Similarly the HO declaration that Rwanda is a safe third country for new asylum seekers to be sent to has caused distress.
- We are receiving a high number of new walk-in queries including requests from the probation service and mental health team who have had new referrals of asylum seekers and are in need of casework support. Some of these have been sign posted to Red Cross Bury Hub who have recently confirmed that we can refer to them.
- The Home Office decision to reduce the notice to quit property from 28 days to 7 days for asylum seekers receiving leave to remain has lead to an increase in walk in queries from people facing homelessness.
- On account of the numbers of families with babies and preschool children and school aged children w/o school places we increasingly find ourselves having to cater and provide facilities at Drop in e.g a private space for breastfeeding.

Case studies

MB is from Ethiopia and has been receiving casework support since 2018. His asylum case has been refused on two occasions. On both occasions once the asylum case was submitted to the home office our Senior Caseworker assisted with the Section 4 housing and money support and he was given a house in Bolton. A few months ago he was refused once again, became destitute and had to sofa surf. Our caseworker made a referral to Boaz in Manchester as there are no night shelters in Bolton for destitute asylum seekers.

He was on the waiting list for a while then Boaz were able to house him in Manchester. He is receiving money support from them.

MB has now got a solicitor to work on his fresh asylum case. The solicitor contacted DP requesting a supporting letter, details of casework support given in the past and other documentation.

There is still a high demand so that during this period only one new case was taken on; additional requests have been sign posted elsewhere.

Five of our asylum seekers have received leave to remain, one of whom was supported at court by our caseworker. She submitted her report to the judge and was asked to be a witness in court. We are delighted with the outcome as it has been a long ongoing asylum case.