

Destitution Project Impact Report July - Sept 2025

Food Support: parcels Asylum Seekers: 717 Destitute Asylum Seekers (DAS) incl unregistered DAS: 12 Destitute Refugees: 7	Food support financial: Vouchers: £30 Emergency funding: medical, essential travel, accommodation, cash support. £14 Food parcels: £8464
Casework sessions Remote: 117 Face to face: 8 Walk-in: 71 New Service Users registered: 0 Files closed: 0 Active asylum cases: 172	Drop in Attendance Total: 984 Average: 76

Agencies that Destitution Project (DP) has connected with:

Bolton CVS began fortnightly “pop-ups” at the Drop-in to promote Family Hub service – good level of interest reported. Ongoing: Cranfield Trust, Digital Candle NACCOM, Refugee Action, Red Cross, BRASS, Migrant Help, Bolton SERCO Housing, Mental Help Support workers, Solicitors, Gt Mc Combined Authority; Probation and GP services; Rotary, local Faith groups and schools.

Developments/Key learning

At our **AGM** some of our guests were surprised at how many people we support!! Testimonials of lead volunteers and service users added heart and warmth to what is, essentially, a formal occasion; we need to make use of these and enable more feedback to support funding bids.

Drop-in

Because of large number of families with children attending (summer hols) we began recording children and will continue after the holiday. Although our Safeguarding policy states that parents/carers take responsibility for their children we cater for them by providing space, art activity and books as well providing the midday meal. This impacts on team workload.

Demand for barbering services has increased. This flagged up the need to it to be formalized. This has now been done with guidelines drawn up. which now have been formalized.

Using up Morrisons vouchers purchased with Lottery funding significantly reduced our food spend for the period.

We bought new games equipment including pool and football tables with Council “Growing the Good” funding. This has made setting up and packing away easier.

The completion of building work and new road layout meant the Morrisons delivery can now be delivered around the side so we don’t have to bring the trolleys up to the Ridgway. This makes unloading the food shop easier.

Casework when a key member of our staff was unavoidably absent from work for an extended period we found we were able to reach out to partner organisations and signpost where appropriate thereby maintaining a level of service. Full operations were resumed gradually.

Case study

1 A is from Mali and has been registered at DP casework since 2024. He was referred by Causeway, a group which supports survivors of modern slavery which had been supporting him and providing accommodation but they reached the end of their capacity to providing housing, and A had not yet received a decision from the Home Office.

Our Caseworker assisted A in applying for a Home Office accommodation as a single occupant as opposed to shared accommodation (his request due to his situation). Our Caseworker also liaised with his solicitor regarding his case and other evidence that needed to be submitted to the Home Office.

Due to the mandatory nature of Home Office accommodation allocation system A was relocated from Bolton area to the West Yorkshire area. Causeway then put him in touch with organisations offering similar support and our caseworker sign posted him to other asylum charities in his area.