

Notes and video from the Zoom meeting 23/3/22

1. Following the introduction there were some general points.

Jennifer - gave an update on the fast developing project to open up a dormant nurses accommodation block at the Crichton. Its expected that up to 100 mothers and children will be placed there temporarily.

Mike - gave us a great insight into the experience of bringing his sister and son over here. The following are some of the points he made

- The visa process is slow but it's important to keep patience with it. Even with a named person it is likely to be at least a week and more probably three weeks.
- The following will be important issues in the first week or so.
 - Registering with the doctor
 - Registering with a bank - he mentioned Revolut as being set up to allow accounts for those without full papers. *We will attempt to gather information about possible banks as we develop things.*
 - The DWP

2. Establishing Local Co-ordinators

As per the first item in the agenda a number of people offered to be the link connections for their local community. It isn't expected that all the people who help or host would be registered MOOL volunteers but it will be very useful to be able to connect people as much as possible.

The names of connections will be listed as we establish the level of public connections that they feel happy with.

3. Resources

Susan mentioned concerns about allergies, for example to pets. We don't know if the matching setup will be allow for the information to be registered before a refugee might be placed with a host.

Training

We will aim to setup some sessions for would-be befrienders and hosts. These would currently be mostly simply shared experiences but it's possible that the council will allow for the resources to be available to put together a fuller program in due course. Venus mentioned the Dumfries and Galloway befriending group who's experience will be invaluable.

It is hoped that the council will put in post someone who would act as a central source of information on official matters.

Lucille mentioned the importance of preparing for possible mental health issues both among adults and among children.

Sarah mentioned that there is now an English Language teaching team to make sure that lessons are available

At this point I finally got round to recording the rest of the meeting.

You can see the recording at https://youtu.be/PmCkUx-z_pw