

DIOCESAN JUSTICE AND PEACE REFUGEE PROJECT

Subject: Refugee Project Update and Job Opportunity

Hello everyone

We felt that it was timely to bring you up to date on recent developments with the Diocesan Justice and Peace Refugee Project. The Project Steering Group has asked me to relay the following update which includes a **new job opportunity** at the project:

Although the lockdown is starting to ease we will need an adequate lead-in time to ensure that, when the project re-opens within the Summerhill Grove premises, it will provide a very safe environment for clients, volunteers and staff. Our present thinking is that this will take place in September. In the meantime we remain in regular contact with the Diocesan Health and Safety lead who will provide the necessary advice as we start to prepare for re-opening and we will keep you informed of any developments.

Some excellent news is that due to a generous grant from the Albert Gubay Foundation we have been able to extend the successful supermarket voucher scheme. Until recently this enabled us to send digital vouchers to the mobile phones of destitute clients so they could purchase goods to the value of £30 in the relevant supermarket. The recent grant has meant that we have been able to increase the value of vouchers for destitute clients to £35 per month and, in addition, offer our other clients a £20 voucher each month. Another very positive development is that we have secured the temporary services of an additional project worker to assist with distributing vouchers - Jeremy Cain is working with the project on a part-time basis until October.

*As many of you will know, John Dowling, our previous voluntary manager at the Justice and Peace Refugee Project "retired" in April. The Justice and Peace Co-ordinating Council, through successful grant applications to charitable foundations, has been able to secure funding for a Project Co-ordinator from September 2020. The post is a one year fixed term, part time contract (18 hours a week). If you, or anyone you know, might be interested in applying please visit the RCDHN homepage, click on vacancies and you will find the application pack. You can follow this link <http://www.rcdhn.org.uk/index.php>
The closing date for applications is July 23rd 2020.*

*Finally, please continue to encourage people to support the project financially – they have been incredibly generous to date. Details of the destitute asylum fund account are:
HSBC DHN DESTITUTE ASYLUM FUND Sort code: 40-34-18 Account number:
52854058. Ideally, contributions by direct transfer would be most welcome but cheques made payable to D.H&N DESTITUTE ASYLUM FUND can also be sent to Justice and Peace Refugee Project c/o Fr Adrian Tuckwell, St Anne's Presbytery, Half Fields Road, Winlaton, NE21 5RW.*

Thank you for your continued support of the Refugee Project – we will keep you informed of developments.

Helen Woodland, Project Worker