



# BEACON BRIEFING



## Spring 2017

Whilst the 'hostile climate' to those seeking sanctuary is even more present, our volunteers and staff continue to promote a culture of welcome in all that we do. Our work is strengthening and developing thanks to all those committed to BEACON. Read on for updates on our work and ways you can get involved.

## Annual Report 2015-2016

To read all about our work with asylum seekers in Bradford last year you can visit our website [www.beaconbradford.org](http://www.beaconbradford.org) where the annual accounts are also available. To request a hard copy please contact [admin@beaconbradford.org](mailto:admin@beaconbradford.org)



Thanks to our partners Touchstone for taking this banner to the streets! They are looking for support to help them move into a new building – visit [touchstone-bradford.org.uk](http://touchstone-bradford.org.uk) to find out more.



walking with you!

## Walk for Justice 2017 - Save the date!

Our annual Walk for Justice is taking place during Refugee Week on **Wednesday 21st June 2017**. We will be walking our usual route from Centenary Square in Bradford to Leeds. This year we are raising awareness around access to justice for asylum seekers - many asylum seekers are refused legal aid and have to face the legal system alone. Join us to take a stand against this and help raise money to continue BEACON's work. There will be more information sent out in due course and on our website but please contact us if you are considering taking part. We look forward to

## CHAT English Club - going from strength to strength!

Our weekly conversation club run by coordinator Mandy offers a warm welcome to any non-native speakers and a team of dedicated and talented volunteers offer support tailored to the students' individual needs. We have students from countries as diverse as Iran, Congo and Vietnam; 41 different students have attended since September and numbers are increasing week on week. Mandy has developed creative and innovative ways of addressing the needs of a wide variety of learners and the group is planning a spring trip in the next month.

***The group runs every Wednesday 10-12 at 32 Merton Road, all are welcome!***



## CHAT Phoenix House - exciting new developments.

Since October we have provided 857 cups of tea to those using the Tribunal and offered a friendly face and listening ear to over 100 asylum seekers. The tribunal is busier than ever and our volunteers are there between 2 and 3 days a week to offer support at a time which can be bewildering and distressing. We are very pleased to have appointed a new CHAT Phoenix House Coordinator who will start in April - they come with a wealth of experience supporting asylum seekers and refugees in West Yorkshire and we look forward to them joining our team. Huge thanks must go to Heather our trustee who has looked after the project for almost a year.



### The Hosting Project

We are thrilled to have recently recruited a new hosting household and therefore able to increase our capacity of being able to offer accommodation to vulnerable destitute asylum seekers.

***We are still looking for new households to host so if you are interested***

***please contact Will hosting@beaconbradford.org***

### McKenzie Friends

Our team of 16 volunteers are currently supporting 28 asylum seekers and one client we helped to find legal representation recently had their appeal allowed. In the last months we have received some excellent training from local lawyers and have developed a handbook for new and existing volunteers to offer more guidance and support - specifically on the difference between giving advice and information. This is a resource developed with the help of a local lawyer and Right to Remain whose Toolkit is invaluable for our work. We are happy to share this handbook so please get in touch if you would like a copy.



### Events for BEACON

BEACON is lucky to have some great supporters -

#### Quiz Night!

In January Baildon Methodist Church hosted a Quiz night which raised over £500 for our work. Huge thanks to the trustees and volunteers who made it happen and to all those who attended. A great night was had by all!

#### The Body in Sound

Tonight some very talented musicians are doing a collection for BEACON at an event at Fuse Art Space you can [get details of the event here](#) - come along and enjoy an amazing musical experience and support our work.

***If you would like to put on an event in support of BEACON we would love to hear from you!***

### Support our Work

As the demand for our work with asylum seekers increases we need your support more and more. There are many ways to support BEACON:

- You can volunteer with one of our four projects: [beaconbradford.org/support-us/volunteer/](http://beaconbradford.org/support-us/volunteer/)
- Donate online via [beaconbradford.org](http://beaconbradford.org)
- Organise an awareness-raising session for your local group and ask us to speak.
- Become a Trustee and support the development of BEACON

***Please get in touch if you would like to get involved!***



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