Shropshire Supports Refugees

Who We Are

#TogetherWith
TOGETHER WITH REFUGEES
SHREWSBURY
MARKET HALL
TogetherWithRefugees

2.What We Do

A Sense Of Belonging

- Main point of contact for all refugees and people seeking asylum in the county
- Main point of contact for people offering support
- We facilitate the offers of support and we respond to requests for help
- We offer emotional and practical support and nurture independence
- We try to ensure people feel welcome, included and empowered
- We bring the community together and create a supportive and compassionate community through education and community activities

How

- Closed Facebook group-receive offers of support and requests for help
- What’s App groups for the different cohorts
- Direct support in people’s homes
- Central support hub in Shrewsbury
- Support in the hotels
- Support on Army bases
- Phone-call support
- Group activities within the hub and the community
- English classes in the hub and online
- Support satellite hubs dotted around the county
- Deliver talks to schools, WI’s etc
- We donate clothes and goods from our hub and various other establishments

TIMELINE SLIDE

2016 January

Handful of friends raised £3,500

2016 February

Long weekend in Calais

2016 June

Shrewsbury supports refugees
Founded

2017 August

SSR becomes a not-for-profit CIC.
Receives first grant from Local Authority, the National Lottery and Barrow Cadbury

2017-2022

Supported 23 syrian families on the SVPRS scheme

TIMELINE SLIDE

2021- August

SSR became a registered Charity CIO

2021 November

Afghans arrive in Telford

2022- March

Ukrainians arrive in Shropshire

2022 November

Reach out to 30 Hong Kong families
Asylum hotel in Shrewsbury opens

February 2023

First Telford asylum hotel opens

TIMELINE SLIDE

2023-
June

New SSR Hub completed

Second asylum hotel in Telford

2023
August

August -
2023

Shropshire Resettlement Team
formed

Afghans arriving from ARAP +
ACRS

2023-
November

Chester
Cheshire
to Llangollen & North Wales
Whitchurch
Ellesmere
Stoke
Market Drayton
Oswestry
Wem
Staffordshire
Newport
The Welsh Borders
Shrewsbury
Welshpool
Telford
M54
Ironbridge
Much Wenlock
Church Stretton
Montgomery
Bridgnorth
Wolverhampton
Bishops Castle
Craven Arms
Kidderminster
Clun
Cleobury Mortimer
Worcestershire
Ludlow
Knighton
Herefordshire
Hereford

Chester
Cheshire
to Llangollen
& North Wales
Whitchurch
Ellesmere
Stoke
Market
Drayton
Oswestry
Wem
Staffordshire
The Welsh Borders
Newport
Shrewsbury
Welshpool
Telford
M54
Ironbridge
Much
Wenlock
Church
Stretton
Montgomery
Bridgnorth
Wolverhampton
Bishops
Castle
Craven
Arms
Kidderminster
Clun
Cleobury
Mortimer
Worcestershire
Ludlow
Knighton
Herefordshire
Hereford

Challenges Of Settlement In A Rural County

- Distance to access services
- Lack of affordable housing
- Lack of ethnic/culturally specific services
- Few jobs for people who don’t speak English
- Cost of transport
- Lack of culturally diverse shops and places of faith
- Difficulty integrating into community activities
- Barrier to mental health services due to language
- Finding a sense of belonging

Some Solutions to Challenges Of Settlement In A Rural County

- In some cases-financial support for transport has been given in different ways over the years to different cohorts
- Before we had a drop-in support hub, we used to visit families in their homes to offer support and reduce transport issues
- When the Ukrainians came, we ensured that satellite hubs were formed so that people didn’t need to travel far to receive support
- The main reason that we work through WhatsApp groups is so that we can share information directly and quickly
- WhatsApp also bridges the language gap through Google Translate
- We did our best to ensure refugees received bikes to help with transport issues in local/rural areas
- Bringing people together for social groups and activities ensured the opportunity for peer-to-peer support from people from their own countries to reduce social isolation

Positives of Rural Settlement

- Lots of support from local community groups if harnessed
- Access to beautiful countryside and nature
- Lots of goodwill and fundraising if harnessed
- Plenty of partners wanting to get involved-increased opportunities
- People are willing to learn and are curious
- There is some wealth, and more importantly, a willingness to share it

Partnership Working With Local Authority

- Regular contact with settlement lead has allowed us to grow in confidence in each others working styles and have faith in our abilities to meet crisis after crisis
- Invited to attend key forums, working groups and meetings relevant to settlement
- Funded since 2017 through the Syrian Vulnerable Person Resettlement Scheme and then homes for Ukraine
- Invited to 8 Local Authority and voluntary sector regular meetings and forums
- They have an office and offer a drop-in support service for housing advice
- They have paid for the majority of the new venue for two years

How The Local Authority Has Spent Ukrainian Funding

- Created a Resettlement Team of 7 people
- Shropshire Supports Refugees
- Energize Shropshire Telford and Wrekin
- Shropshire Cycle Hub
- Enable Employment Assistance
- Community satellite hubs
- Leisure and Tourism Team at Shropshire Council
- School and education teams

Local Partnerships

Shrewsbury Bid

Enable

Shrewsbury Shopping Centre Management

Storage King

Wenlock Water

Energize Shropshire Telford and Wrekin

West Mercia Women's Aid

Landau

The Branch Project

Shrewsbury Food Hub

The Ark Homelessness Centre

Access Counselling

Shropshire Local Authority

Shrewsbury Town Council

Beam/The Childrens Society

Performers without Borders

Brightstar Boxing

Cavalier Horse-Riding Centre

Shropshire Infrastructure Partnership Centre

Wrekin Forest School

Shropshire Cat Rescue

Archery GB

Jump In

Shropshire Youth Association (SYA)

Concorde International School

Shrewsbury School

The Hive Arts Centre

Shropshire Cricket Board

Telford AFC

Shrewsbury Football Club

Local Mosques

Local Churches

Shropshire Tennis Club

Shropshire Pickle Ball Club

Telford and Shrewsbury Colleges

Telford and Shrewsbury Colleges

Sport England

National Trust

Migrant Help

Serco

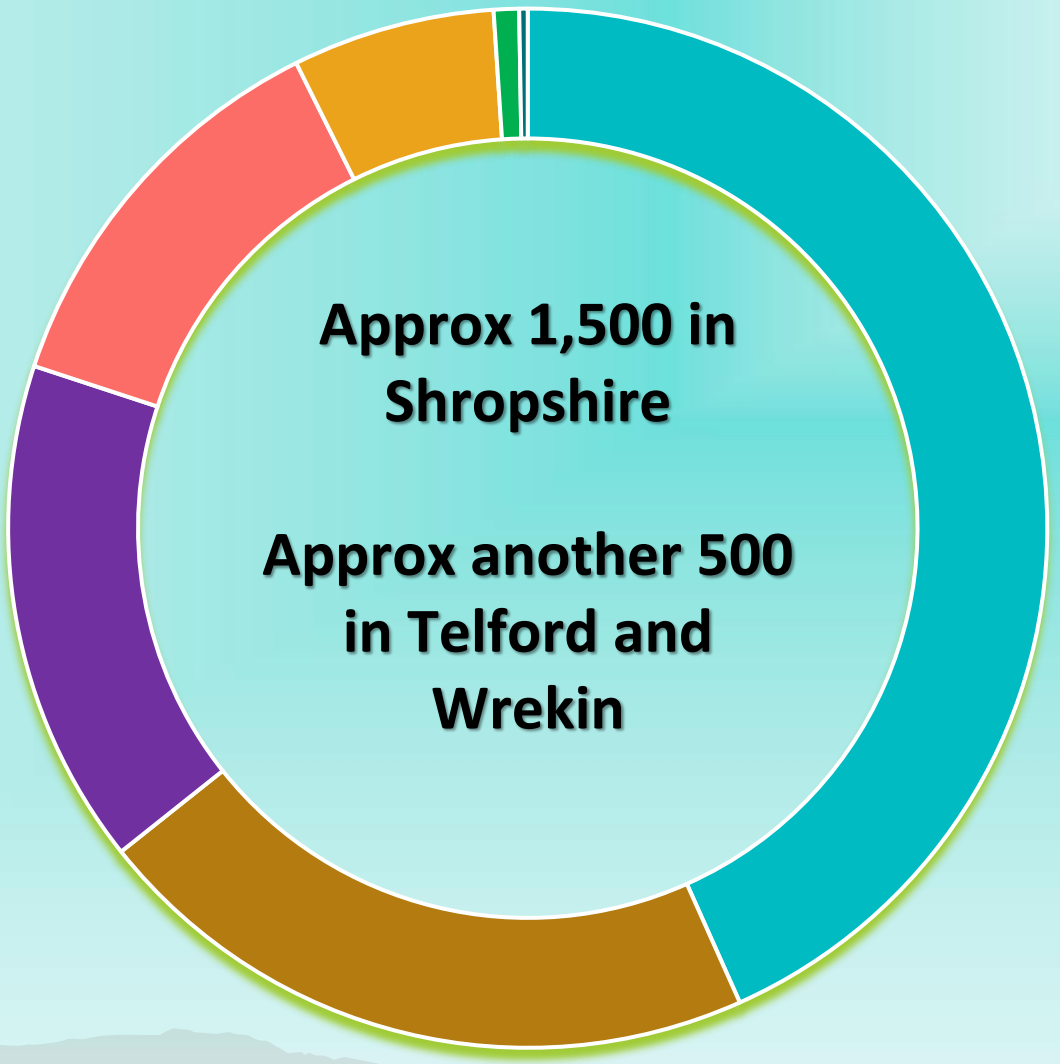
House of Prayer Wellington

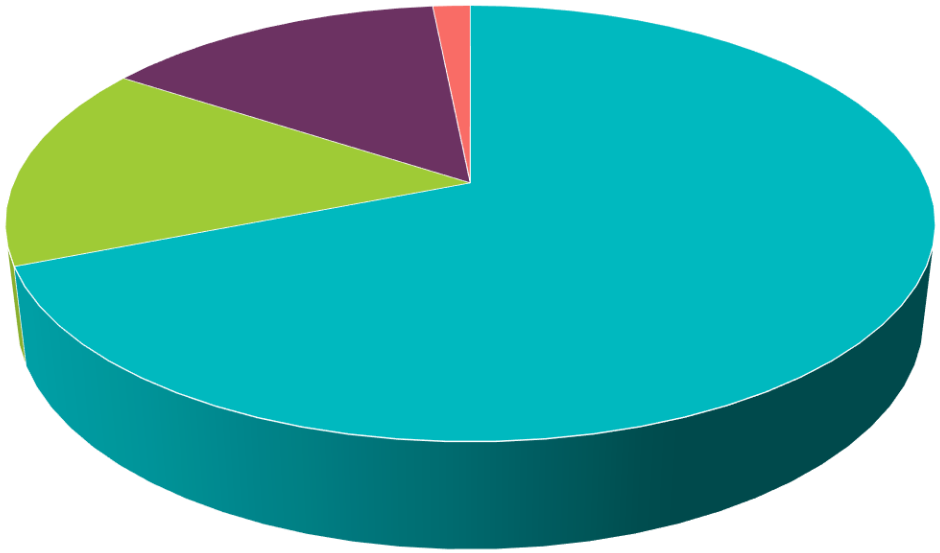
Community Networking

- Two migration resettlement meetings
- Homelessness forum-tackling exploitations-strategic priority group
- VCSE
- The Telford mental health forum
- Shropshire mental health forum
- NHS consultation groups
- Inclusion network
- Trauma informed steering group on-going source of funding
- City of sanctuary refugee week meetings
- Community connectors meetings
- Invited to do talks for various teams
- NHS talking therapies
- Schools' psychology teams
- Work closely with MPFT
- West Midlands strategic migrations partnership meetings

The Cohorts

- Homes For Ukraine - 825
- Asylm Seekers - (100 in Shrop - 300 Telford and Wrekin)
- ARAP/ACRAS - 300
- BNO - 240 (90 in Shropshire, 150 in Telford)
- VPRS - 120
- Displaced People (No Scheme) - 15
- UKRS - 5





- Local Authority
- National Lottery
- Small Grants
- Funding from the Public

2023 Funding - £500,000

Support In Asylum Hotels

- Welcome packs
- Sim cards, clothes and shoes
- English classes
- Mental health support
- Help with universal credit
- Setting up bank accounts
- Signpost into housing and moving on services
- Include service users in community events and activities
- Lots and lots of sports activities!

Homes for Ukraine

- Working closely with the local authority to ensure all areas covered
- Free access to leisure centers
- Free buss passes were distributed
- English classes were organised- Over 300 people registered for ESOL
- Volunteers recruited; Shropshire Infrastructure Partnership helped to facilitate this!
- Online information resources created to assist hosts and guests to navigate their way through housing, employment, education and well-being
- Help with bank accounts and benefits
- What’s app group for hosts and guests
- Satellite hubs set up around the county with regular meetings held by SSR
- Mediation in difficult situations worked closely with Local Authority and Housing Teams when host and guest situations break down
- Provided clothes, shoes, household goods and toys
- Created many opportunities for people to come together (choirs, dance troops, social groups)
- Activities for children, opportunities for the adults in the community, collaborative working I.E tickets to concerts and events
- **Laugh together, Cry together**

Shropshire Council

Homes for Ukraine
Number Summary

30/11/2023 16:31:25

Refugees

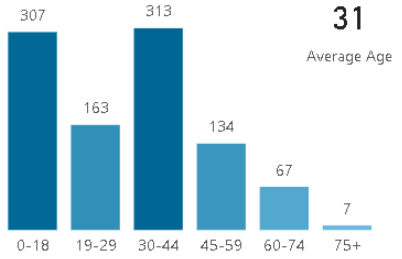
Refugee Age

1 86

991

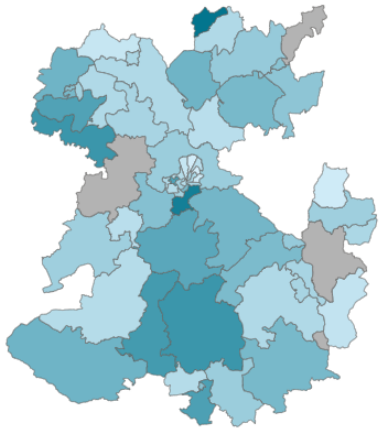
Number of Refugees (Estimated)

Age Breakdown



31
Average Age

Ward Name	Number of Refugees
Whitchurch North	49
Bayston Hill, Column and Sutton	45
Corvedale	36
Llanymynech	36
Church Stretton and Craven Arms	34
Ludlow South	32
Copthorne	31
St Oswald	31
Burnell	29
Clun	24
Gobowen, Selattyn and Weston	24
Total	**991**



*Grey = 0 Refugees

Sponsors

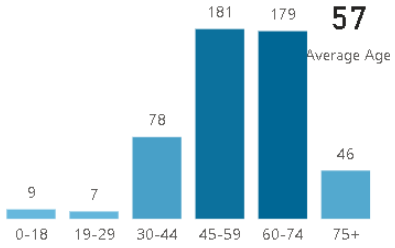
Sponsor Age

0 94

500

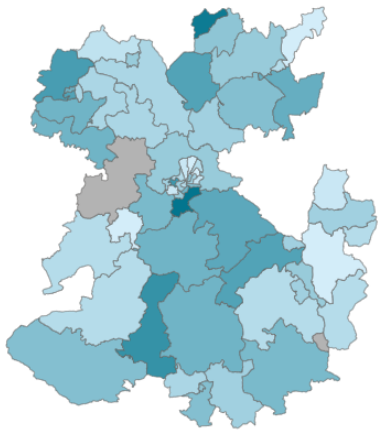
Number of Sponsors

Age Breakdown



57
Average Age

Ward Name	Number of Sponsors
Bayston Hill, Column and Sutton	22
Whitchurch North	21
Church Stretton and Craven Arms	17
Copthorne	16
Gobowen, Selattyn and Weston Rhyn	15
Much Wenlock	14
Oswestry South	14
Wem	14
Severn Valley	13
Cheswardine	12
Total	**500**



*Grey = 0 Sponsors

The SSR Hub

- Our Hub acts as a place of safety and welcome for people seeking sanctuary in Shropshire
- People are encouraged to make themselves at home, use the Wi-Fi and access our support services
- They can make their own food in our kitchens, and we host drop-in support sessions from our partners such as,
    1. The Housing Options team
    2. Enable employment services
- The local authority resettlement team has an office with us
- Monthly visits by Axis Counselling and Women's Aid

The SSR Hub

- Food Hub deliveries
- Job centre runs sessions
- We have mental health support delivered by MPFT
- We have volunteer therapists that deliver therapy
- We run coffee mornings for Syrian ladies
- Tea parties for the Hong-Kongers
- Bespoke conversation classes
- Exam centre
- Good contacts with the local police
- Access to laptops and online support
- Access to laundry services
- We run 18 ESOL classes a week from our dedicated learning space

Awareness Raising

- **City of Sanctuary - 23 Schools**
- **Schools of Sanctuary- (town council working towards accreditation)**
- **Refugee week**
- **Arts projects**
- **Poetry books**
- **Short films**
- **Music video**
- **Deliver talks**

Faith and trust in humanity

If in doubt, do the right thing, even if it means taking some risks

Collaborations and partnerships, embrace ortunities of port

Learn how to be creative and resourceful with funding

Share a positive vision for the future at all opportunities

Encourage and inspire peaceful community cohesion

Respo negativity, don't let it breed more negativity

Step-outside the box to ensure the job gets done

Put people at the heart of everything that you do