

Update on The Wiltshire Hotel

The Wiltshire hotel continues to host asylum seekers who come from a range of countries on behalf of the Home Office and its contractors. The Wiltshire is classed as 'initial contingency accommodation' and is on a rolling three month booking with the Home Office. The Home Office contractors are obliged to provide transport for medical appointments and additional transport has also been pledged recognising the hotel's isolated nature. Registrations with the local GP surgery continue to take place for any new arrivals and welfare officers link with the NHS over the provision of appropriate mental health support.

Volunteers and local councillors have provided support to those at the hotel – including clothing, board games, footballs, refreshments and other items as well as a friendship café. Laptops are also being provided as well as material for a small garden in a corner of the hotel car park. Informal English lessons have also been provided. As many of the men have now been in the UK for more than six months they are eligible for formal ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) lessons and work is underway to facilitate appropriate travel arrangements to lessons, given the limited capacity at the hotel. Other leisure and volunteering opportunities for the service users have been offered, dependent on appropriate transport provision being in place.

Wiltshire Council, Police, Fire, NHS and others continue to meet regularly with Home Office, their contractors Clearsprings Ready Homes and Finefair, to share community concerns and inform relevant activity.