

Councillors Briefing Note No. 300

Service: Corporate

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New Refugee Families Settle in Wiltshire

Volunteers from all over Wiltshire have been working with a new group of Syrian refugee families and individuals who have arrived in the county this summer and are now making their home in Wiltshire.

The volunteers are part of a strong multi-agency approach to ensure the individuals and families have all they need to settle quickly into their new homes and communities. A group of 14 arrived in June and a further six individuals will join them later this summer.

The latest groups of families and individuals are based all around Wiltshire with each family or person having a volunteer on hand to support them as they become accustomed to the British way of life.

This time the arrivals were also able to benefit from the help and insight of the eight families (27 individuals) who had already settled in the county last December. In the few months since they arrived, they are already integrating with their communities and volunteering or gaining work experience as well as preparing to find work.

A special event was held at the Civic Centre in Trowbridge recently where the new arrivals were given guidance on accessing support and information on health and schooling.

Baroness Scott of Bybrook, OBE, Leader of Wiltshire Council, said: "I'd like to welcome the new families who are now settling into their homes and thank the many volunteers who are helping them adapt to a new lifestyle and culture.

"I'm also pleased the families who arrived last year are being so supportive as they will provide invaluable insight and guidance for our new residents as they find jobs, become self-sufficient and make Wiltshire their home."