**Leeds Asylum Seekers Support Network**

**Grace Host (Longer Stay)**

**Volunteer Role Profile**

**Purpose**

Hosts will provide accommodation to destitute asylum seekers / and or refugees who would otherwise be spending a night on the streets for an agreed amount of time.

**Time Commitment**

Volunteer Hosts will provide a minimum of one month of accommodation. The length of time a guest can stay will be pre-agreed and reviewed on a regular basis.

**Location**

The accommodation provided will be at the Volunteer Hosts own home.

**Duties / Responsibilities**

* Provide accommodation for a destitute asylum seeker / refugee guest.
* Provide a warm, clean place to sleep, in a private room with access to washing facilities.
* Provide food when needed (taking into account dietary preferences such as halal meat or vegetarianism)
* Complete a Guest / Host Agreement with LASSN, the guest and with input from the referral agency. This will ensure that all parties are clear about what is expected of them and the length of time accommodation will be provided.

**Abilities and personal skills**:

* Willingness to welcome a stranger into your own home and provide a friendly and safe environment for someone who may have experienced extreme trauma and hardship.
* Ability to attend two compulsory training days on the asylum system and Hosting.
* Empathy and understanding towards the problems facing asylum seekers and refugees, particularly those experiencing homelessness / destitution.
* An ability to relate to people from different cultures.
* To be aware of the power dynamics between a Host and a Guest
* Understand the important of encouraging Guests to make their own decisions / choices and to live independently within the boundaries set by the Guest / Host Agreement.
* Ability to recognise the limitations of the support you can provide to a guest and set personal boundaries.
* Willingness to meet / keep in touch with other volunteer hosts and Volunteers Manager, to share experiences, good ideas and best practice.
* Willingness to keep in touch with the Volunteers Manager and to proactively seek support if the situation arises.