

Foulden, Mordington and Lamberton Community Council statement on the situation in Afghanistan



Many of us are shocked and saddened at how things have unravelled in Afghanistan. We know some of you have already written to local MPs, made donations and feel more could be done.

Donations:

Through contacts with friends in the foreign office who have just left Afghanistan the following charities have been recommended if people do want to contribute in some way:

Aschiana	https://friendsofaschiana.org.uk/
Turquoise Mountain	https://www.turquoisemountain.org/
Ishkar Emergency	https://www.ishkar.com/pages/emergency_hospitals

Volunteering:

We have been in contact with Scottish Borders Council. The lead person for refugee families in the Scottish Borders is **Graham Jones**, Safer Communities & Community Justice Manager.

He says: "The situation at present is that Scottish Borders Council have been in regular contact with the Home Office and COSLA [Convention of Scottish Local Authorities] in preparing to host Afghan families, none have arrived yet, though will be arriving in the coming weeks.

It is difficult to predict what each family will require until they actually arrive and as you would expect we need to be sure the families are receptive to any offer of support out with statutory services. Support could be material, practical and /or emotional.

We have volunteers who assist with our Syrian families. They are required to apply as SBC volunteers, provide 2 references and a PVG [Protecting Vulnerable Groups] for vulnerable adults and children. Generally support has been for language and integration."

Please contact him directly should you wish to volunteer
Graham.Jones@scotborders.gov.uk .

Yours sincerely

Foulden, Mordington and Lamberton Community Council