

# Emergency Education for Refugee Groups in Coventry

By  
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# Background Information

- Most asylum seekers are living in poverty and experience poor health and hunger. Many families are not able to pay for the basics such as clothing, powdered milk and nappies.
- Almost all asylum seekers are not allowed to work and are forced to rely on state support – this can be as little as £5 a day to live on.
- The accommodation allocated to asylum seekers is not paid for by the local council. It is nearly always 'hard to let' properties, where other people do not want to live.
- Asylum seeking women are vulnerable to violence in the UK. More than a fifth of the women accessing therapeutic services had experienced sexual violence in the UK.
- Many destitute refused asylum seekers fear approaching the police to report incidents of sexual harassment and assaults, avoiding contact for fear of being picked up, put in detention and deported.

(refugeecouncil.org.uk)

# Aims

- To provide safety and emergency education to vulnerable members of the community.
- To work with partners to achieve the goal of educating those unfamiliar with the UK's stringent Health & Safety guidelines.
- To develop different streams of guidance and information that will help provide the fundamental procedures of staying safe while residing within the UK.

# Partners

- Coventry Refugee & Migrant Centre
- Coventry Council
- Coventry University
- West Midlands Fire and Rescue Service
- West Midlands Police
- West Midlands Ambulance Service
- UK Refugee Council
- UNHCR (United Nations Refugee Agency) [If possible..]

# Timeline for Implementation

- Talk with the proposed partners about the need for such a service within the area.
- Get permissions that are required from relevant authorities
- Develop teaching plans on how to effectively communicate the necessary information.
- Convene with partners to review teaching plans
- Recruit and train volunteers who would like to get involved.

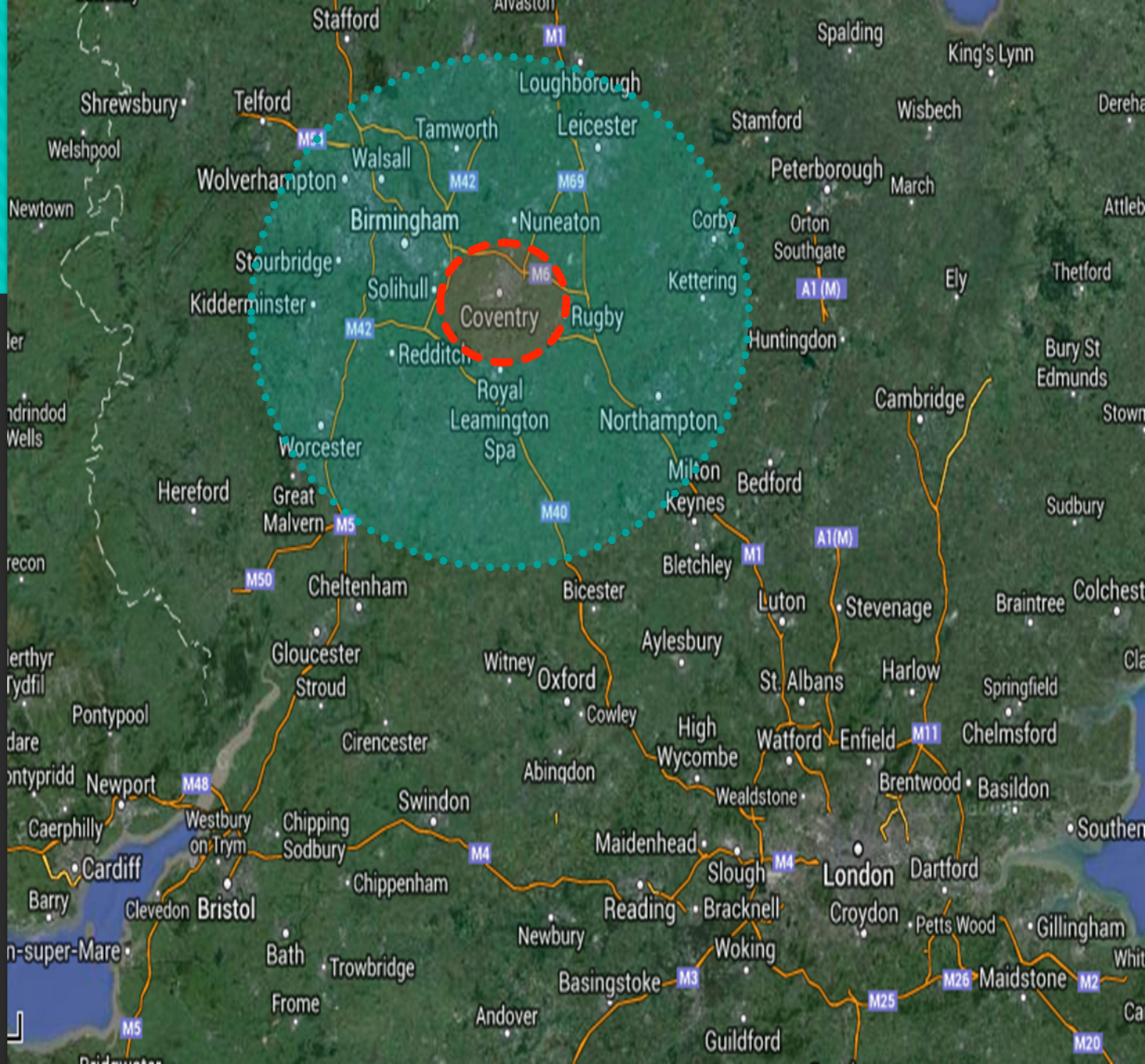


# Location

## Coventry Area

- Coventry Refugee & Migrant Centre
- Coventry University Facilities
- Council Facilities (If necessary)

## Expansion into further of the west Midlands is successful.



# Actions

- Teaching groups of individuals actions they should take to stay safe in the UK. e.g. Fire safety advice; Where to go in the event of an emergency; How to protect themselves from violence; Organisations that can help support their needs ect..
- Presentations from local authority representatives on how to stay safe in the UK.
- Interactive exercises mimicking realistic emergency scenarios.
- Videos detailing potential dangers of living in the UK.
- Distributable materials with required actions to take in an event of an emergency.

# Budget

- Produce safety information leaflets. (TBS)
- Purchase survival equipment to distribute in case of an emergency. e.g. fire alarms, fire extinguishers, flashlights, rape alarms ect.. (TBS)
- Secure donations from the public and local businesses.
- Apply for funding from the university or other relevant bodies.



# Challenges

- Lack of understanding regarding the cultures and traditions of the UK.
- Language barriers and how to communicate the information effectively.
- How to ensure that they'll take the information and advice on board and actively practice it during their time in the UK.

# Goals

- To develop a working relationship with vulnerable members of the local community while endeavouring to ensure their safety while in the UK.
- To encourage volunteering opportunities to garner community cohesion.
- To promote the values of safety and emergency response.
- To generate interest from the media for a wider profile of the issues.

# Evaluation

- Identify the types of information that reverberates best with the target audience so that they will retain and practice what they've been taught when need be.
- Determine whether this needs to be more of a long term project with refugees entering and leaving the country as time goes by.

# Conclusion

“Refugees and those seeking asylum deserve the same basic human rights as the rest of those that reside within the borders of the UK. They shouldn’t have to suffer in silence. The intent of this action plan is to embolden those that are unaware of what action should be taken in the even of an emergency so that they don’t put themselves in unnecessary harm.”



# Contact Information

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