



# BRASS

Bedfordshire Refugee &  
Asylum Seeker Support

## NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2017

### What we do.....

**BRASS transforms the lives of some of the poorest and most disadvantaged people in Bedford; each year we enable over 400 refugees and asylum seekers overcome poverty and barriers to resettlement and integration.**

### Latest news.....

**A massive thanks to the Big Lottery!**  
It's been all go here since receiving news from the Big Lottery that we had been awarded 5 year funding to develop our work. During the last 12 months we have employed a Complex Case Worker, Specialist Benefits Advisor and an Integration Worker. It's all proving extremely successful in meeting our aim to provide a more intensive, specialist service.



### We need your skills.....

**Volunteers are vital** in helping us to deliver services. Without them we would not exist. If you think you have the skills, experience and time to give to helping us help others, please go to our website [www.brass@27b.org](http://www.brass@27b.org) for more information.

### Spring has sprung .....

**The BRASS allotment project** was launched last summer. With new members wanting to join this year, we are hoping for a bumper crop this summer. In addition to learning how to grow healthy food, participants really value the therapeutic and social benefits.

We are in need more tools and another shed – if you can help, please do contact us on 01234 211381 and ask to speak to Heather.

## **BRASS makes a difference.....**

**We help refugees and asylum seekers in Bedford improve quality of life and overcome isolation. We also seek to make our community a more welcoming place to settle in. During the last 12 months we have:**

- Dealt with 674 resettlement related case matters
- Dealt with 701 legal and financial related case matters
- Helped address the isolation/confidence issues of 242 individuals
- Improved communication/language skills of 43 individuals
- Helped 125 people in our community to better understand the plight and contribution of refugees and asylum seekers.

## **Thank you to our supporters.....**

**Everyone at BRASS wants to say thank you to the following organisations and individuals:**

- Big Lottery
- Harpur Trust
- Beds & Luton C Foundation
- Bedford B Council
- Wixamtree Trust
- Allen Lane Foundation
- B Laing Foundation
- Steel Charitable Trust
- Archer Trust
- Local community groups and individuals



## **Time for family fun.....**

**BRASS social outings** continue to prove to be an excellent way of improving confidence, communication skills, developing new relationships and learning about British culture. With few local opportunities for refugees and asylum seekers to come together to socialise, previous trips to Hunstanton and last year's trip to Wicksteed Park was so oversubscribed we had to hire another coach to meet the demand! This year we are adding a visit to Great Yarmouth to the calendar. We can't wait for the summer!