

On the left side of the slide, there are several vertical orange lines of varying heights and widths. To the right of these lines are five orange circles of different sizes, arranged in a descending, staggered pattern from top to bottom.

MATERNITY SUPPORT FOR MIGRANT WOMEN

Sarah Taal

Hope Housing Support Worker

hope destitution fund

- Started 2003 in response to destitute asylum seekers attending Clare Short's MP surgery.
- Partnership between agencies that work with refugees and migrants in the West Midlands:
 - ASIRT
 - Birmingham Law Centre (Hope Projects)
 - British Red Cross
 - Children's Society
 - Lifeline Options
 - Refugee Council
 - Refugee and Migrant Centre of the Black Country
 - Restore



hope destitution fund

- Subsistence support to asylum seekers who are working on resolving their immigration status and support problems.
- Grant meetings every two weeks, policy meetings every six weeks.
- Money for the fund is raised through grants and trusts, distributed by referral partners.
- Over the past nine years the fund has raised and distributed over £750,000.



hope fund for children

- Partnership between the destitution project and the Children's Society West Midlands Refugee Program's and the Hope Projects.
- Children's Fund for destitute migrant and asylum seeking women, who are pregnant or young mothers with children under 2.
 - Two weekly grants from the destitution fund with on-going casework.
 - One off pregnancy payment for women unable to access statutory support.
- Application to the children's society, download from: <http://www.hope-projects.org.uk/node/5>



hope housing

- Started 2006 as Hope partners responded to homelessness of refused asylum seekers.
- Partnership and referral meetings like the destitution fund.
- Currently 8 houses from RSL's across Birmingham (Housing and Migration Network Report): 6 men, 15 women, 2 families, 1 single mum and 5 children.



hope housing

- Support for pregnant women who are housed:
 - Checking / signposting person to a GP, Midwife.
 - Signposting to agencies for extra help:
 - Narthex: St Johns Church, Stratford Road,
 - Hope Children's Fund,
 - Bethel Doula Project.
 - Refugee Council Health Befriending Project
 - Sitting on various forums to relay peoples health experiences:
 - Migrant Health Forum,
 - LINK.
 - Medical appointment travel costs if required.
 - Interpreters when needed.
 - Emotional and practical support.



hope projects PCT FUNDING

- In response to high infant mortality in region, from 2008-11: The PCT funded Hope Projects to increase the number of healthy babies and respond to the destitution faced by women (pregnant, or new mothers with children under 2) with NRPF through:
 - Renting two properties (8 rooms) for women, while they were helped to access other support.
 - Substantial destitution funding for weekly grant payments.
 - Networks developed to facilitate support for pregnant women or new mothers. E.g: through working with legal advisors (ASIRT and Bhatia Best) and caseworkers (Children's Society) Social Services have been Judicially Reviewed to provide housing and subsistence funds.



hope projects

CASE STUDIES

- 6 month pregnant asylum seeker, referred to Hope Projects on the basis she was about to appeal her recent refusal of section 4 support decision, based on her not being pregnant enough. Suffering severe diabetes. Hope provided housing and subsistence support, extra money for travel to frequent medical appointments, introduced to Narthex for baby items, and the Doula Project.
- Family from Zimbabwe, with a 4 month old baby, collecting evidence to submit a fresh claim to the Home Office, applied for section 4 support on the grounds there was a newborn baby, referred to Hope Projects to get interim support while waiting for section 4 decision. Refused support, now fresh claim pending and family awaiting decision on new support application.



hope projects

- Non specific support groups increases peoples networks and facilitates their general well being.
 - Hope Knitting
 - Kushinga Gardening
 - Restore Befriending

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