

WYDAN NIGHT SHELTER

The Lead Volunteers' Information Pack

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We have put together this Pack based on shared experience of four years of running Night Shelters for destitute asylum seekers in Leeds. We hope the information it contains will be really helpful.

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- 2. Check List of Requirements for Hosting a Night Shelter**
- 3. Night Shelter Roles**
- 4. Night Shelter Volunteer Guidelines**
- 5. Information on the Shelter Bedding**
- 6. Possible Answers to Insurers' Questions**
- 7. Reports from Previous Shelters: Farsley, Otley, Moortown.**
- 8. Lead Volunteers' Feedback Form**
- 9. Example – Risk Assessment St Edmund's 2019**
- 10. Example – Evacuation Procedure St Edmunds 2019**
- 11. Example - Emergency Numbers information poster**
- 12. Example – Bus Pass Information for Guests**
- 13. Health Issues**
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There is also a separate **WYDAN Night Shelter Policy Pack**.

A brief background to WYDAN & the Night Shelters

WYDAN stands for '*West Yorkshire Destitute Asylum Network*'. It was founded in 2014 by partner organisations involved in helping asylum seekers in the area. Current partner organisations include Red Cross, Meeting Point, PAFRAS, LASSN/Grace Hosting, Abigail Housing, St Monica's, Migrant Help. Its aims are; '...to increase bed spaces for destitute asylum seekers, and to raise awareness amongst the public on the issue of destitution amongst asylum seekers.'

In 2014/15 WYDAN found a big increase in asylum seeker destitution and worked to set up winter night shelters in Leeds specifically for asylum seekers, using the model and advice of Bradford's 'INN churches'. WYDAN's night shelters are for men only, providing a maximum of 10 bed-spaces (women are fewer in number and helped by St Monica's Housing and LASSN home stays). Katrina Burton set up and manages the Night Shelters for WYDAN, and since Jan 2018 has been supported by the NSSG (the Night Shelter Steering Group), whose members have been involved in previous Shelters, and support the recruitment, organisation, training and volunteers of the Shelters.

The shelters have grown from 15 weeks (4 Jan - 18 April 2016); 17 weeks (12 Dec 2016 - 10 April 2017); 17 weeks (20 Dec 2017 - 16 April 2018); to 30 weeks (29 Oct 2018 - 28 May 2019). The fifth round of shelters started on 29 July 2019, and how long it continues depends on how many hosts are willing to offer their venues.