



Refugees At Home – Home Visit Checklist

Prompts:

The Home Visit form is designed to provide Refugees At Home with further information following the Home Visit. The aim of the visit is to check that the whole household is happy with hosting, to see the accommodation is as described on the application form and to explore issues they need to consider before hosting, such as access, house rules, dietary restrictions etc.

Accommodation:

- Check the accommodation is **as described** on the application form.
- Is the **accommodation accessible** (i.e. is there a bedroom and bathroom on the ground floor?)
- What **access** will the guest have to various parts of the property, times of day, will they have key, burglar alarm code?
- Will the guest be able to **cook, wash clothes?** Who takes responsibility for **cleaning** what parts of property?
- Are there **rules** around smoking, drinking, noise and religious practice?
- Is there access to **telephone, internet?**
- Are there any **pets?**
- Check for **smoke alarms** and **carbon monoxide alarms** and suggest the host may wish to install them if not already in place.
- Discuss **insurance**. Does the policy cover guests? If not there may be a need for the host to get the policy amended. This should not be problematic.

- Is there any **restriction** on the use of the property? Eg a requirement for the mortgage lender or landlord consent?
- Stress that **NO RENT** must be asked for, expected or accepted. Recent changes to immigration law means this would be illegal.(we wouldn't expect it anyhow).

Part 1. Accommodation Summary (please use this for your notes)

Placement:

- Are *all members* of the household happy with the potential arrangement? Has anyone expressed any reservations?
- If there are **children** in the household, have the adults responsible discussed the hosting with them? Have they considered possible effects?
- Explore **relevant experience** hosting as a prelude to discussing capacity to cope with emotional issues that can arise when hosting refugees. How will they cope with refugees who may have disturbed nights, possibly waking others? Are they prepared to offer emotional support if needed? Explore what emotional support they think/are prepared to offer and give information as how to access assistance with emotional matters as required.
- Discuss **how to seek help** if hosts have concerns.
- Will the guest be expected to do anything? Will the guest have the opportunity to help if they want to? How will the balance be handled?
- Will the host help develop the guest's opportunities and skills, eg help with learning English, form filling, life in the UK, work skills, IT skills etc Please explain that the referrer will continue to actively support the guest with these things for the duration of hosting.

Part 2. Placement Summary (please use this for your notes)

Finance

- Refugees may have no money. Discuss what the financial implications for the host are.
- Can they provide three meals per day? If not can they afford any meals eg. Breakfast only?
- Can they provide anything towards travel costs?

Part 3. Finance Summary (please use this for your notes)

Other issues:

- Discuss: where they can go if they have issues (access to GP/ suggestion of local support services and activities/access to counselling and emotional support): RAH

- Discuss:

Refugees and asylum seekers are, by definition, vulnerable. That doesn't mean they aren't articulate, intelligent, determined human beings with personal agency; but they are also in a complicated legal and personal situation, often having endured very difficult circumstances that has left them with very complex things to work through; and all this in an alien country & culture. Hosts need to be very aware of the power differential, and consider whether consent is informed consent. That particularly includes sexual relationships, also business relationships, any financial agreements (our advice would be don't sign any while hosting) or even very intense friendships.

encourage the hosts to read the **Host handbook** as well and to come back with any questions.

Part 4. Summary of any other issues discussed