



**Aim: To Welcome & Help Asylum Seekers, Destitute Asylum Seekers, Refugees, and Migrant Workers**

**Monthly e-Newsletter** Issue 1

**Welcome to the first Open Doors e-Newsletter!**

**Open Doors - Brief Background**

- A Church-based charity
- A Weekly Drop-in Centre (Thu 10am - 3pm)
- Started in Autumn 2000
- Local Partners (10)
- Well-wishers & Supporters (various)

**Key Activities**

Main

- Tea/Coffee, Breakfast, and Lunch
- Food Parcels
- Hardship Finance

Other

- Red Cross
- Community Policing
- Housing Benefits
- Health Visitors

Educational

- ESOL Classes
- Computer Classes
- Befriending Classes
- Music Classes

**Contact Details**

Mr Stephen Rippon (Line Manager)

Mr Bahsir Siraj (Project Worker)

Tel: 01482 471136

Mob: 07913120198

Email: [opendoorshull@live.co.uk](mailto:opendoorshull@live.co.uk)

Website: <http://opendoors-hull.org.uk/>

**So how did this all come about....?**

Simply, someone had a thought! “What about a Newsletter”? “What a good idea”, echoed another. “It will help us to communicate and inform our existing donors, partners, well-wishers, clients, and volunteers, (as well as future ones), about how and what we are doing. We can also share some interesting stories and events, as well as the impact of some of the work, and/or the progress and outcomes of some of our extraordinary cases etc.” “Sounds good, but who is going to edit it”, another asked? “Ah, who better than an old friend, Angela? OK, maybe ‘old’ is the wrong adjective, so I’ll say a **good** friend from years ago, who has been catching up with her past connection with Princes Avenue Methodist Church, Hull. Her Dad, Rev. Francis Forbes, served as a former minister of this church, together with his wife, and also served in other churches in York & Hull District)”. “.....well that settles it then”.

So here we are readers - the first edition, hope you like & enjoy it.

**From Strangers To Friends**

‘Open Doors’ have clients from 34 countries, so far, ranging from Eastern Europe to Africa. Many of them arrive with numerous problems and challenges, and the language barrier further compounds these. Often these lead to anxiety and difficulty in them trusting people - thus adding loneliness to their plight. However, over time, with the help and skills of all the agencies and volunteers at ‘Open Doors’, many of them are able to lower their barriers, open up, and start trusting people again, and even going as far as becoming friends. Some of the clients are even able to volunteer their services, and in doing so strengthen links and friendships with a range of people in the drop-in centre. Some client volunteers help in the kitchen, or with security, while others help with the breakfast and lunch setting-up and clearing-up, or with translations. Help with translation is vital particularly when they are asked about themselves and their circumstances. Others simply offer valuable re-assurance and company to newer clients.

We hope all who believe that **the pen is mightier than the sword** will want to pen (or type) a few lines for this e-newsletter - something to inform, challenge and evoke a response in you, our dear Readers. Also, please feel free to email us any of your thoughts that might help enhance the e-Newsletter and keep it relevant and interesting.

**Want To Know More About Open Doors?  
Just Send Us A Speaking Invitation**

**STATISTICS (Oct. 2012)**

CATERGORY	DROP-IN DAY				Total
	4th Oct	11th Oct	18th Oct	25th Oct	
Food Parcels	105	65	92	82	344
Destitute	23	20	22	21	86
Eastern Europeans	39	28	42	40	149
Homeless	18	19	17	13	67
Total Clients Helped	105	85	110	99	399

**Tit Bits**

- Record Breakfast - 32 Bags of Bread Used in 4 days (Oct. 2012)
- Open Doors Featured on Look North (Oct. 2012)
- Wedding Blessing: Congrats to Akeel and Farideh (Oct. 2012)
- New Email-Based Newsletter Launched (Oct. 2012)
- Clients come from 34 countries within Eastern Europe & Africa
- The highest number of clients, by country, registered in one drop-in session in October was 27 (Polish clients) (18<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2012)

**Can You Help?**

You can support this important charity by:

Financial Donation/Giving

- Standing Orders
- Credit Card
- Cash

Other Giving

- Food/Provisions
- Clothes & Shoes & Bedding
- Books & Toys

**THANK YOU FOR READING OUR e-NEWSLETTER**