



Role Description: Volunteer Host

About Sanctuary Hosting: Sanctuary Hosting matches destitute asylum seekers, refugees and vulnerable migrants to people with spare rooms who are prepared to have someone to stay with them rent free, for a pre-defined period of time, whilst the individual is receiving support to explore routes out of destitution.

About this role: A Host is someone who generously accommodates a refugee, migrant or asylum seeker in their own home. This is usually in a spare room.

It is up to the host to decide how long they are willing to accommodate someone. This could be for just a few days – or considerably longer. You can always decide to extend the period of time you are offering if things are going really well, but we recommend always making it clear when the arrangement is due to end.

We aim to be as flexible as possible. You can decide your own living arrangements with your guest, including whether or not they can have a key and if they can be home during the day alone or should be out of the house during certain hours. If you go on holiday or ever need a break we can try to arrange another host to cover for you (but please give as much notice as possible). If you need your room back suddenly, Sanctuary Hosting will work to find an alternative host/room for the guest as quickly as possible.



How do I become a Host?

Firstly, talk the implications of hosting through with your family and make sure your children and any other adults living with you are “on board” and in complete agreement with hosting, before you go further with your enquiry with the hosting scheme. It is good to explain to them why your potential guest has nowhere else to go.

Then get in touch with Sanctuary Hosting (info@sanctuaryhosting.org) We will take your details, send you information and answer any questions.

We will arrange to meet with you to discuss the hosting process and what you feel able to offer. We will also take character references and complete DBS checks to ensure your suitability as a host.



When homeless refugees, migrants and asylum seekers are referred to us we will meet each person before placing them with a host. We will not place people with known alcohol or drug problems or with aggressive behaviour, serious criminal convictions or severe mental health problems.

We will then contact available hosts by phone to ask if you are able to host someone.

We will try our best to match hosts with suitable guests. For example, we will not ask a single lady to host a man, unless they specify that this is ok. This matching process is accomplished through a series of detailed questionnaire and application forms, and a preliminary meeting usually in a neutral location between the host, the potential guest and a member of the Sanctuary Hosting team.

Then, if the situation is still agreeable to you and the guest we will arrange a further meeting in your home. A simple contract will be signed to ensure your guest understands their living arrangements and how long they can stay. We will try to ensure that these and all expectations are made clear and explicit from the outset.

We will call the host and guest individually during the first few days and weeks of a new hosting situation. This allows both host and guest to privately discuss any concerns they have with the placement and to avoid any larger issues or concerns from developing.

Our team of community-based volunteers will work to support you throughout the process. If you have any questions or concerns, please do get in touch.