

DEVON AND CORNWALL REFUGEE SUPPORT



JUSTICE FOR SEPARATED CHILDREN

SEEKING ASYLUM

Separated asylum-seeking children resettled in Cornwall urgently need legal support and access to justice. Without specialised immigration advice, advocacy and support these young people are forced to navigate the complex UK asylum system alone.

Our mission is to provide the critical legal assistance they need to build safe, stable futures

Donate to our fundraiser to support separated children in Cornwall to receive access to justice.

Help us provide urgent legal support for separated children seeking asylum in Cornwall

ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR SEPARATED CHILDREN SEEKING ASYLUM



LEARN MORE AND DONATE



WINTER REFLECTIONS

The summer saw Refugee Week take centre stage with numerous community events and activities, concluding with DCRS's 25th Anniversary celebration. As we approach the end of 2024, we are proud to have completed the first year of the Befriending Project, training 21 new volunteers, matching 20 with service users, and launching a parents' group, among many other achievements!

DCRS Healthpoint has had a successful year, operating for over 18 months and offering vital signposting, advocacy, and mental health services. We supported over 180 service users—an increase from last year—and held over 280 GP triage appointments. The introduction of the Health Navigator role has made clinics more efficient, enabling more support during appointments.

A standout highlight was the visit from Peninsula Dental School students, who conducted a dental health seminar and distributed dental hygiene equipment. In 2025, we hope to restart the Refugee Dental Clinic to provide routine care to those in need.

We welcomed Dr. December Payne as the new Healthpoint registrar, whose expertise has been invaluable. Craig Walker's permanent role within the ASR Mental Health team at Livewell has also strengthened our partnership, allowing us to expand services and introduce new referral pathways, including wellness programs.

For our winter activities, we've continued to support clients with IT classes, trips to Tugley Woods, a cook-a-thon at Lunchfest, and many English Classes.

In 2025, the Wellbeing Department will focus on pre employment, volunteering opportunities alongside the wealth of activities. Our Casework department continue to expand their asylum and immigration knowledge to better support those we serve.



WELCOME TO GEORGE ROSENBERG



We're thrilled to welcome George Rosenberg, our newest solicitor, to the DCRS team! He is joining our new legal aid team which has just been granted a legal aid contract.

With this team in place the difficulties we have been facing in finding lawyers for our service users as the legal system has been run down by the government should be reduced. With a strong background in legal practice in over 20 countries, George brings a wealth of knowledge and experience.

Here's what he had to say about joining us:

"I'm very excited to be joining this new venture for DCRS. It's going to be a big challenge to try to bring decent legal services to many people who have been denied them in recent years. DCRS provides an excellent environment for this new venture, so the signs are good for success."

LEGAL AID CONTRACT

Legal representation has been and remains one of the most important pieces of work to complete for any sanctuary seeking person arriving to the UK.

The complexities of the asylum and immigration system makes the process extremely difficult to understand and nearly impossible to go through safely without someone with the relevant expertise to advocate for you. Without that representative, your story and reason for seeking safety won't be heard by the decision makers.

Most of our service users do not have the funding to pay for a solicitor and require the financial assistance of our legal aid system. Legal aid hasn't seen an increase since 1998, longer than DCRS's existence, which has vastly reduced the number of advisors in the UK and especially the Southwest.

As an organisation we understood that we needed to do something about this to do our best by those we serve.

Our legal aid department, started in September 2024, is the start of our answer to rebalance the scales.

George Rosenberg, Camilla Bostock and our Supervising Senior Caseworkers are working hard to develop this new department, forging a path for our other caseworkers to learn and develop to be able to represent our service users in the future.

Alex Vessis - Chief Executive Officer

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Camilla has officially passed the IAAS (Immigration and Asylum Accreditation Scheme) Senior Caseworker exam and is now accredited by the Law Society!

This achievement means she can independently handle asylum cases under Legal Aid. This is a new milestone in helping us to provide access to justice for those seeking sanctuary in the UK. Well done Camilla!

