

Item 63
Ukrainian Support

Background

Further to the discussion held at the June Full Council Meeting, it was agreed that Councillors would consider the potential support to the Ukrainian nationals seeking refugee status in Rugeley. Support from the Town Council has already been given in the award of a £50 'care package' to each Ukrainian settling with a family in Rugeley. In addition, the Town Council had allocated a further £1,000 to the World Kitchens initiative however the need for this funding passed and no donation was made.

It was proposed that the £1,000 previously allocated to World Kitchen, be redirected to support Ukrainian refugees by paying for their monthly subscriptions for the Rugeley Leisure Centre. Those who are fleeing war zones are subject to degrees of post traumatic stress and by offering free use of the leisure centre, it is hoped that sport, relaxation etc. can support the mental wellbeing of the refugees. It will also help them to further integrate into our community.

Those Ukrainians that wish to use the Leisure Centre will need to join the concessionary membership scheme and will need proof of their address in Cannock Chase District, together with proof of their eligibility i.e., refugee status or receipt of Universal Credit. They will also have to pay the joining fee.

The Town Council were made aware that CCDC would be looking into this as well and it is now understood that CCDC will offer reduced rates to the refugees.

Proposal

Councillors are asked to consider funding the monthly subscriptions to Rugeley Leisure centre for an initial 12 month period for those Ukrainian refugees who register for the Leisure Centre concessionary membership and pays the joining fee.