

Leicester City of Sanctuary: Model of Change

The need: Around 1,000 asylum seekers in NASS accommodation in Leicester. Asylum seekers and refugees disadvantaged, often traumatised, face complex challenges of poverty. They must also acclimatise to new culture and language

Refugees and asylum seekers feel...

Isolated and lonely
Low confidence and self-esteem
Stressed, anxious and depressed
Skilled but disempowered
Lack of local knowledge
Reluctant to engage



Hub with support services and activities Warm welcome

Activities

Support with basic needs:
Toiletries, clothes, emergency fund
Communal meal
Family corner with children's activities
Wellbeing activities
Community Hub - Talks & visits from local organisations
Service users volunteer to run Hub

Change

Make friends and social connections
Feel less isolated
Know more about local services & where to get help
Improved mental wellbeing
More capacity to engage with other LCoS services

A place to belong, a place where you can contribute

Asylum seekers and refugees feel part of society and local community is more welcoming

Asylum seekers and refugees become part of local community and contribute to it in a meaningful way

Better life chances

Local community interacts with asylum seekers and refugees and better understands issues facing asylum seekers and refugees

Local services work together efficiently, avoiding duplication

More asylum seeker and refugee engagement via partner opportunities



More confident to engage and have greater resilience

Activities

ESOL classes – informal & formal
Social & Cultural Trips
Football and exercise (soccercise)
Textiles and other classes
Life skills activities

Change

Better able to communicate
More confident to engage
Improved physical wellbeing
Learn new skills
More able to make informed decision on asylum case
Better prepared for leave to remain and life in UK



More integrated within local community

Activities

Service users volunteer to run LCoS services

Asylum seeker and refugee ambassadors

Outreach activities in local community run with ambassadors

Talks / Visits / Schools work / Events

Chair Leicester Asylum Seeker and Refugees Multi-Agency Forum

Able to use skills to make a positive contribution

Sense of purpose, boosted self esteem

Improved employability

