

Supporting Migrants in Suffolk

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This session

- The Forum for Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants (FRASAM)
- Who is involved and how
- What we do
- Links to other projects

FRASAM

- Forum for Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants (FRASAM)
- Merger of the New and Emerging Communities group and Multi-Agency Forum in 2008
- Long term commitment to collaboration

Collaborate

The word "Collaborate" is displayed in a playful, multi-colored font. Each letter is a cutout held up by a hand from a different person, symbolizing teamwork. The colors of the letters are: C (red), o (light blue), l (tan), l (yellow), a (blue), b (light green), o (red), r (light blue), a (yellow), t (tan), e (blue). The hands are of various skin tones and are wearing different colored sleeves, including light blue, green, orange, grey, blue and white checkered, yellow, dark grey, white, plaid, and grey. The background is a plain white wall.

Who is involved

Distribution list of 124 people:

- Statutory sector: education, social care, police, health, housing
- Voluntary and faith sectors: advice services, ESOL, community activities
- Regional and national representation: Strategic Migration Partnership, dispersal accommodation, legal advice, asylum support, UK Visas and Immigration

How do people stay involved

- Email circulation
- Meetings 3 times a year
- Network contacts

- Impact of widening job roles
- Less time to attend meetings
- Facilitate information sharing

Key topics

- Immigration, legal and wider advice services
- Health needs and related topics e.g. female genital mutilation (FGM)
- Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Programme, dispersal area issues, unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC)
- Community integration
- Risk of exploitation of migrants
- Impact of legislation changes e.g. right to rent regulations
- English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) provision
- Changing profile of migrants in Suffolk

Community information



Impact on provision

- Fewer staff dedicated to support for migrants
- Reduced public sector resources
- Challenges to meet funding providers' criteria
- Collaboration increasingly important
 - Make best use of resources
 - Avoid duplication
 - Seek opportunities for joint projects to meet the needs of migrant communities

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Supporting Minority Communities

- Build on previous projects and to address identified need
- Migration Impact Fund then Big Lottery funding
- 4 strands run by different organisations:
 - Migrant drop-in service
 - English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)
 - Mentoring for young people
 - Supplementary schools

Migrant drop-in service

- Running since October 2010
- Migrant Help
- Multi-lingual trained staff
- Ipswich, Brandon, Newmarket
 - Lowestoft, Bury St Edmunds, Felixstowe
- Housing, employment, education, benefits advice
- Over 9,500 client interactions

- Top nationalities:

| | |
|------------|------|
| Polish | 3502 |
| Lithuanian | 2128 |
| Portuguese | 1927 |
| Romanian | 907 |
| Latvian | 305 |
| Spanish | 170 |
| Brazilian | 104 |
| Bulgarian | 83 |

English for Speakers of Other Languages

- Support migrants to be more independent
- Access employment opportunities that match skills
- Provision provided by: Realise Futures, Suffolk Refugee Support, Bangladeshi Support Centre, Keystone Development Trust and CSV Media (now Ipswich Community Media)
- Most courses pre-entry and entry level
- Free to access
- Progression at rate to meet learners' ability

Mentoring

Mentoring is a voluntary, mutually beneficial and purposeful relationship in which an individual gives time to support another to enable them to make changes in their life

The value of mentors:

- Students who meet regularly with mentors are:
- 52% less likely than their peers to 'skip' school
- 46% less likely than their peers to start using illegal drugs
- 27% less likely than their peers to start drinking
- It has a positive effect on personal development
- Improves confidence, motivation and self belief

Over 100 young people were mentored

Supplementary Schools

- Supplementary Schools offer educational opportunities for children and young people outside mainstream school provision.
- They usually cater for minority ethnic communities and are voluntary organisations, often run by volunteers
- Around 145 different languages currently spoken in Suffolk
- 17% of the school population in Suffolk are from a Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) background
- Suffolk Supplementary Schools are predominately based in Ipswich but serve communities across Suffolk

NRCSE awards

Five schools have recently achieved their National Resource Centre for Supplementary Education (NRCSE) Gold Quality Framework Award:

- Anglo Chinese Cultural Exchange
- Education & Development Centre LINGUA
- Kerala Community Supplementary School
- Karibu African Women's Support Group
- Bangladeshi Support Centre Supplementary School

And working towards the Silver award are:

- Achievers Supplementary School
- Suffolk Portuguese Supplementary School

Outcome of support



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