

Case study: working with refugees and asylum seekers

What was the issue to address?

To develop a drop in facility for asylum seekers and refugees in North Kirklees.

What difference did we make?

The group meet every week for four hours, they can access support or advice on housing, health and education.

There is access to a donated clothing bank, one to one support, with monthly attendance from a Red Cross worker, arts and crafts, computer classes and refreshments. There is the weekly opportunity to practise English and learn about English culture.

Over 60 people have accessed support from the project, with a weekly attendance of 20. The project brought together people from different countries including Iraq, Iran, Somalia, Ivory Coast, Zimbabwe, Cameroon, Eritrea, and Congo.

There is a visible difference in the confidence and self esteem of the group. Some members of the group have moved on to education, volunteering and employment.

What were the keys to our success?

- Continued support from Community Support Services
- Volunteer support from Dewsbury Minster
- The group have adopted a constitution
- The support network that has been developed by the group
- The group support and translate for each other.

What are we doing next?

- The group have moved to bigger premises
- There is access to sport facilities and a pool table
- Plans are in progress for computer lessons through Dewsbury College
- The group will be able to access a new internet café
- Providing opportunities to volunteer within the centre.



Shaping our future **Together**
Kirklees community cohesion strategy

