

COMMUNITY HUBS

CREATING SPACES OF WELCOME FOR REFUGEES & ASYLUM SEEKERS

OUR VISION

Refugees and asylum seekers feel welcome, valued and confident to celebrate and share their culture, skills and knowledge in their local community and beyond.

BRISTOL
REFUGEE
FESTIVAL



WHAT DO REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS USE COMMUNITY HUBS FOR ?

Community spaces exist to welcome all members of the community.

Here are some things that refugees and asylum seekers would like to do in a space of welcome:

- Feel comfortable and seek support
- Participate, regardless of age, background or ability
- Contribute to their community by sharing skills and knowledge
- Confidently share a sense of belonging by connecting and building relationships

HOW TO MAKE A SPACE FEEL WELCOMING TO REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

- PERSONAL WELCOME; smile, verbal greeting, friendly, taking time, making an effort
- WARMTH; laughter, humour
- CELEBRATING DIVERSITY; creating a sense of familiarity and belonging through colour, tablecloths, music, decor.
- CLARITY & ACCESSIBILITY; clear signposting, information in a variety of languages, child- and disability-friendly
- SKILL & CULTURE SHARING; self development and two-way sharing opportunities, activities for different interests and abilities, resources e.g. dictionaries, books, toys

TOPS TIPS FOR SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE AND CULTURE SHARING

- Cook together
- Invite refugees and asylum seekers to celebrate an important cultural date
- Find out what people and their families are interested in
- Start a language exchange
- Invite refugees and asylum seekers to hold/join creative workshops

These are great for breaking down barriers and help individuals feel welcomed, accepted, and part of the community.

TOP TIPS FOR ENCOURAGING REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS TO PARTICIPATE

- Think about language; use visual aids, design activities that don't need language
- Ask what they need
- Show them they are valued
- Build trust and confidence
- Consistency of messaging



NEXT STEPS!

1. Evaluate your welcome and interactions
2. Make your space visually reflect the diversity of your community
3. Create opportunities for participation and two-way sharing
4. Get your team on board!