

WELCOME MENTORS

#kirkleeswelcomes

Background: Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants are often vulnerable when placed in our communities, as they lack the language and support networks to help them access services and integrate in the community. The Welcome Mentor programme has been developed to offer a volunteer support/befriending service to help alleviate some of the barriers and reduce the feeling of isolation.

The project: is delivered on behalf of #KirkleesWelcomes by TSL Kirklees. TSL recruit and train volunteers. All volunteers are subject to DBS checks, reference checks and receive on-going support from the project co-ordinator. Once trained the project co-ordinator will match the volunteers with referrals we receive, providing clear information in relation to the reason the person was referred and the actions required. The volunteer will have regular support from the coordinator, where progress against the referral objectives will be tracked. As the Welcome Mentor supports the migrant, refugee or asylum seeker if further needs are identified the project will update the referral agency to agree additional actions and activities. When the expected progression has been achieved and the coordinator, Welcome Mentor and referrer are in agreement the support will formally end. A person can be referred again following closure, if new needs are identified at a later date.



Steffi Rogers
Project Coordinator

Support offered by the #KirkleesWelcomes, Welcome Mentors:

- ✦ Support to access NHS including assisting with registering at medical centres, opticians and dental practices and help planning for visits to hospitals or specialist appointments
- ✦ Interpreter informal services, for example helping parents understand responsibilities around childrens development
- ✦ Support to access services for example food banks, migrant groups, legal advice
- ✦ Support to access ESOL assessments and ESOL provision
- ✦ Assistance to identify and access community activity to support integration
- ✦ Support with transitioning between stages of the migration process for example help with housing applications and universal credit

Please note we try to work flexibly with referrers and if there is another specific need, we are always open to exploring whether these needs can be met.

If you are interested in volunteering please complete the short application at Volunteering Kirklees: <https://volunteeringkirklees.org.uk/job/third-sector-leaders-kirklees/>

If you would like to refer a person for support you can access a referral form from Steffi.



steffi@tslkirklees.org.uk



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If you have access to Anycomms, completed forms can be sent to Third Sector Leaders from the Organisations list.