

Refugees Welcome North Somerset – ‘Welcome Meals’



Refugees Welcome North Somerset (RWNS) works to ready homes for incoming refugees and asylum seekers, offers a befriending service, and facilitates a welcome café and centre which provide lots of support including English classes and clothes donations.

RWNS used their UKSPF grant to launch a ‘Welcome Meals’ project. This supported people to come together to prepare and share homecooked meals. They could offer a hot, nutritious meal to marginalised people twice a week, helping to create a sense of community and give people the support they need, whilst enabling a culture of skills sharing and collaboration.

UKSPF Achievements

1 project completed

159 people engaged, including **27** new volunteers recruited and **132** people served meals.

Wider impact

One specific case study in particular shows how the project can create positive employment outcomes for those involved:

X is a young man from West Africa, who first visited RWNS’s welcome centre for help with his housing. He had recently been granted asylum and faced homelessness when told to leave Home Office provided accommodation. We supported him with emergency accommodation while he found something more long term. This was around the same time we launched our Welcome Meals project, serving hot, nutritious and culturally diverse meals from the Welcome Centre in Weston-Super-Mare.

Daniel has become a valued member of the team: supporting new arrivals, getting involved with food preparation, serving the meals and helping with the washing up and choosing the all-important music in the kitchen. Daniel is quick to join with any job that needs doing and is often found entertaining the children at the centre.

In January Daniel attended our Barista training and customer service course, provided by our friends at Radical Roasters. Daniel has since been working with volunteers and our partners at Opportunity North Somerset to apply for work. So far, it has resulted in short term contracts and Daniel is confident he will find a permanent job soon.