

IMPACT REPORT

Rainbow Haven

2016-2017



Rainbow Haven aims to be a safe haven for people who are displaced and unsure of their future. We provide information, advice and advocacy to support people with accessing services and understanding UK systems and policies.

We seek to overcome some of the causes of poverty and social injustice as well as support people to address barriers that affect their ability to settle into life in the UK.

1. We run a drop-in at the centre in Langworthy each week, which has 10 appointments and up to 5 emergencies for advice workers (benefits, destitution, employment, registering for schools or GPs) Approximately 40 people attend a lunch we provide, social time or going to classes and workshops.

2. ESOL classes provide a valuable opportunity for refugees, asylum seekers and other migrants to learn English. This in turn helps them integrate into the host country and supports community cohesion. The acquisition of language helps people gain confidence and builds social connections.

From an ESOL volunteer Teacher “I’ve really enjoyed working here and feel that together we have achieved great things. The students have really benefitted.”

3. If somebody attends drop in regularly they become part of the community and are in a position to acquire new skills that will help them integrate into their new home and life. They can learn from the others and benefit from the experience of Advice Workers.

4. We recruit volunteers to help deliver our services. They perform vital roles such as teaching ESOL, staffing reception, supporting the advice workers with tasks such as helping clients to fill in forms, finding info and making referrals. Catering volunteers help provide lunch, which is a vital part of our service

“You have given me the most precious thing - your time when walking beside me on this journey of life. Thank you for that!”

5. Last year we ran a 6 week Wellbeing Course for 9 attendees. The course covered diet, exercise, mood, keeping well and making social connections. The Health Improvement Team attended and signposted people to further services and agencies to enable people to look after their wellbeing better.

6. We want to improve activities at Rainbow Haven by broadening the spectrum of opportunities offered including employability, parenting, wellbeing and recreational activities such as sewing and crafts. We have a new worker funded by Lloyds TSB who has capacity to introduce new opportunities.