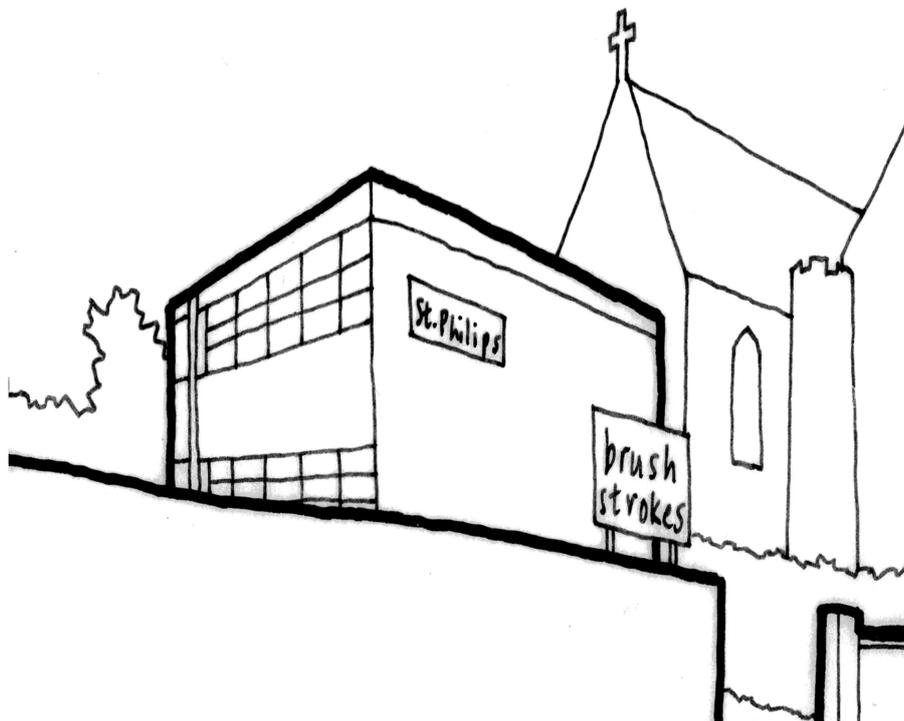


Brushstrokes Community Project

Annual Report 2017/18: Opening doors, Creating opportunities

*“We must be in the hand of God like a brush in
the hand of the painter” Nicholas Barré*



Part of Father Hudson's Care. Charity no. 512992

Management Committee 2017-18

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Fr. Erasmus Egenonu C.S.Sp.
Sister Margaret Walsh
Keith Athiade
Bhavna Solanki
Leighton Padotan
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Leonie Hart
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Mary Tomlinson
Julie Shields

Brushstrokes Staff

Dave Newall – Project Manager
Jane Alsop – ESOL Coordinator
Martin McNally – Volunteer Coordinator
Nigel Chandra – Centre Coordinator
Blanka Stevenson – Outreach Coordinator
Loreta Braha – Monitoring Assistant
Arjana Osmani- Outreach Support Worker
Megan Sieprawska – Migrant Support Worker
Sally Debiage- Resources Coordinator
Fatmire Braha – Resources Assistant
Kathy Fryatt – Cape Hill Cooking Champions
Thomas Taggart – Domestic Assistant

Freelance Staff

Louise White – Advice worker
Dee Sturman – IELTS Teacher
Lakshmi Sukumaran – IELTS Teacher

Brushstrokes founding partners are Father Hudson's Care,

the Infant Jesus Sisters and the Parish of St Philip Neri.



Charity no. 512992

INFANT
JESUS
SISTERS



Charity no. 234216

Parish of St Philip Neri



Charity no. 272581

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Administration

Asha Gharu
Shareena Begum
Muhammad Butt
Gurjit Dhariwal
Yasameen Ameen
Lucy Woolls
Bani Kaur
Francois Mouchipou
Sara Packer

Home Support

Lorraine Cruckshank
Stephen Hardman
Asma Taheri
Sara Packer

Jesuit Novice

Paolo Beltrame
Matthew Tumulty

Seminary Students

Owen Gallagher
Michael Barwich

Immigration Advisor

Salman Mirza

Resources & Catering

Parveen Akhtar
Claudia Antic
Anwara Bari
Mary Geach
Makbule Gokberk
Jennifer Hall
Helima Ismaeel
Costacia Mukankusi
Mahtaj Shiraz
Mary Tomlinson
Diane Hill
Babatunde Oyenekah
Steluta Moldovon

ESOL

Maureen Alecock
Hazera Begum
Paul Beech
Keith Collier
Barbara Eastgate
William Gurney
Stephen Hardman
Vivien Heenan
Anne Maher
Givashi John Mwanga
Hajar Nejad
Sereeta Nevers
Lakshmi Sukumaran
Martin Taylor
Michael Weir
Patricia Weir
Andrene Miller
Junior Moyo
Faten Jalel
Andrew Harwood
Mary-Rose Puttick
Sonia Stranger
Melanie Steadman
Anne Tudor
Tiana Rathod

Housing Mentors

Petelo Sakwanga
Jollie Kwizera
Hawar Amin
Hajar Nejad

Student Placements

Lubna Begum
Jessica Benton
Jollie Kwizera
Mary Rose Puttick
Charlotte Hacking
Oladimej Moyegun
Rebecca Pearch
Annia Wright
Michael Barwich

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Chairs report

Welcome to the 2017/18 Brushstrokes annual report. We are a Community Project based in Smethwick and provide a range of services targeted at vulnerable people living in Sandwell and West Birmingham. Our focus is on supporting refugees, asylum seekers and migrants needing support through key transition stages in their lives. Our support provision includes:

- **Outreach, Advice and Information Service** – on welfare, housing, education, health, accessing services and signposting. We provide accredited immigration advice.
- **Resources** – food, clothing, household and essential baby and maternal equipment.
- **Teaching English as a Second Language (ESOL)** – accredited language support.
- **Employment support** – including high level English support to acquire conversion qualifications for health professionals (IELTS).
- **Refugee Pathway** – supporting refugees during the transition from asylum to refugee status.
- **Homelessness Prevention** – housing advice for refugees and migrants. In addition to specialist support to migrants in the private rental housing sector
- **Community cohesion activities** – days out, community café, which is a designated Place of Welcome and social opportunities.

There is evidently a huge need for all of our services at Brushstrokes, this year we provided support to 1233 individuals. As this annual report highlights, a growing need for more advice work. Seeing the large numbers of people attending Brushstrokes on a Friday for Immigration Advice is a clear indicator of this. Having accurate and quality information and guidance is crucial and empowering for individuals and this will continue to be a priority for Brushstrokes.

I feel privileged to be the Chair of a project which has such dedicated staff, volunteers and supporters. Each time I have visited the centre this year I have been greeted with warmth and a smile whilst the Brushstrokes team are buzzing around and carrying out their essential roles. I thank them for their dedication and commitment.

Jo Watters

Brushstrokes Chair



Project Managers report

This year has been a time of transition for the organisation, we have welcomed new staff and volunteers, introduced new systems, developed new projects and engaged with new partnerships.

Net migration into the UK fell in 2017¹, however the reduction masks the changes in the profile of the migrant population. This is reflected in the different nationalities accessing our service. Greater numbers of service users came from Birmingham this year, particularly to access immigration advice. We continued to see more complex cases over the past 12 months with immigration status and the reasons for migration increasingly affecting individuals' entitlement to study, work, housing, free NHS health care and social welfare. The uncertainty surrounding Brexit and what this means for EU citizens has affected many of our clients and their communities, highlighting the need for information, advocacy and immigration advice in 2018/19.

It is in this context that Brushstrokes has continued the work of opening doors and creating opportunities for asylum seekers, refugees, migrants and vulnerable adults. Our annual report demonstrates the various ways which we have worked to provide a welcome, a space for people to meet, eat, speak and be heard, to find support and assist them to recognise and make use of the talents that they have as part of our community. Welcoming the stranger and serving the hidden poor remain foundational values guiding our work.

Psalm 113:6-7 reminds us that there are other ways of treating our neighbours, it says, *"He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap, and seats them with princes, with princes of his people"*. We have had the tremendous privilege and responsibility each week to bring these words to life through our actions, to give a place of honour and give dignity to those which society places firmly on its margins. One service describes the difference coming to Brushstrokes has made to her this year,

"I really got complete and admirable support that makes me feel like I'm worth living as human being with dignity.

Physically: I got the support of food, clothes for myself and the little and all the necessary moral support throughout my pregnancy. I got the house to live in for more than a year through Brushstrokes.

Mentally: I was offered counselling so to cope with my horrible and painful past incidents which left me so torn apart and persuade me to leave my country.

Socially: I was so fortunate to be invited to one of the group for sewing with the intention of helping me interact with people and at the same time learning something new so to be occupied in mind. I was also allowed to be one of the volunteers to serve people with food and clothes.

I really do not know how to outline everything because it was on-going support with so much love and care."

¹ Migration Statistics Quarterly Report; February 2018 ONS

In a world focused on outputs and outcomes, we must not lose sight of the lasting impact that the spirit in which we do things and the values that underpin the why and the way we work has on those we are privileged to welcome to Brushstrokes. It is often those immeasurable outcomes which linger for many of our service users, who highlight the acceptance, kindness and help people have received and how this has had a positive effect on their life. We will continue to strive in the year ahead to find new ways to articulate the impact of these 'immeasurables', which have really made a difference for those who come through our door.

All this is made possible by our funders, supporters, volunteers, management committee and staff. We would like to thank you all for helping us deliver the activities described in this annual report.

Dave Newall

Brushstrokes Project Manager



Progress on priorities for 2017/18

1. Increasing our capacity to deliver ESOL.

- We are delivering ESOL to a record number of learners this year, running 23 classes a week providing language support for 226 learners. Our involvement with the USE-IT! project has enabled us to deliver IELTS (International English Language Testing System) classes for migrant health professionals, providing vital support to help them move towards being able to work again in the Health Sector. We have sustained our work with satellite sites providing resources and support to enable these local organisations to develop capacity to deliver ESOL in their community.

2. Identify suitable space for the delivery of confidential advice, our resources and other services.

- Some progress has been made this year. We have explored the viability of a number of alternative premises in Smethwick, however at the time of this report we are still looking for suitable alternatives to our current location. The need for space has required us to deliver four language classes off site and a weekly outreach clinic in another venue. Our focus remains on securing premises that enable us to continue to deliver a holistic service to our clients.

3. Expanding our outreach offer through the training and recruitment of additional volunteer advisers and exploring options for the delivery of advice from other venues.

- Our outreach and advice capacity has been enhanced by additional volunteers this year. Four peer housing mentors joined us to support our private sector housing project. A more structured training programme is now in place for our outreach and advice volunteers. Almost 500 home visits were made to vulnerable migrants.
- Since September we have been delivering a weekly private sector housing clinic for migrants at Smethwick Council House every Wednesday alongside Emconet, a community organisation working with Russian Speakers in Sandwell and Birmingham. We have explored possible outreach venues in West Bromwich and continued to look for options to extend support to migrants in other areas of Sandwell and West Birmingham.

4. Developing a wider range of work on migrant health and ensuring we understand the impact of the NHS charging regulations on new migrants.

- Delivery of several health sessions with service users that provided an overview of the NHS, Flu Immunisations and the Pharmacy 1st scheme.
- Enabled service user input to two consultations on changes to NHS service delivery in the Sandwell and West Birmingham CCG area and supported migrants to register with a GP.
- Staff and volunteers received training on the new NHS Overseas visitors charging regulations and we worked with several clients who have been charged for their health treatment.

- Brushstrokes presented on the implications of the current charging regulations to members of the Sandwell New Communities Network and at the West Midlands Migrant Health Summit in January 2018. We have continued to raise the impact and implications of charging with Public Health in Sandwell.
- In March we started to deliver work as part of Sandwell Consortium's Better Health programme.

5. Sustain our work with refugees and migrants in private sector accommodation and develop peer housing mentors.

- Further funding was secured this year to sustain our work with migrants renting in the private sector, Sandwell Council and local landlords. This funding has enabled us to develop a peer housing mentor scheme and deliver a series of community awareness sessions on rights and responsibilities as a private tenant. Our peer mentors are all from migrant backgrounds and have, through training and supervision, been able to increase the awareness of tenants' rights and responsibilities in their own communities. The project has been able to highlight the range of issues landlords and migrants face when renting privately and has provided valuable evidence for the local authority on these issues as they seek to respond to new housing legislation.

6. Enhance our capacity to evidence new and emerging issues in migrant communities and make greater use of this to inform policy and service delivery.

- The introduction of a new case management system this year and staff training on identifying and understanding the social policy links between our advice work have improved our capacity to identify new and emerging issues for our clients and their communities.
- We have evidenced the problems faced by refugees seeking to access benefits and presented this to local DWP and Job Centre Plus managers this year. We have been able to work constructively with them to improve the processing of refugee benefit claims.
- We have captured the impact of Universal Credit roll out on some of our service users and been able to take this issue forward with DWP colleagues locally.
- Our experience of working with individuals subject to NHS charges has informed our response to recent Department of Health consultations.

Highlights from 2017-2018

English language

The number of learners has increased this year and we are running an additional 5 classes per week. Access to ESOL classes remains an issue for many migrants in Sandwell. Our classes were filled again in the first week of registration leaving little capacity to take on new learners who arrived during the year. We continue to prioritise places for asylum seekers. The support of Time Bank and start of the Better Health course in March has created some additional places at a pre-entry level, where the greatest demand and difficulties in accessing classes is experienced by learners. We have continued to support several satellite sites this year, providing additional help to two Sandwell based communities in developing language support.

Brushstrokes is part of the USE-IT! project², a project that is co-financed by the European Regional and Development Fund through the Urban Innovative Actions Initiative, and works with partners to identify migrants with overseas health qualifications in the USE-IT! area. The project has been hugely successful in its first year finding over 100 people with overseas health qualifications. However, the need for support to pass IELTS (International language testing system) has been identified as the major barrier preventing these health professionals getting back into work in the health sector.

Our capacity to respond to this emerging need as a project partner led us to deliver an initial set of IELTS workshops and assessments and a run a class from September to December. The ESOL coordinators report highlights the value of these classes to individuals and our USE-IT! partners. Through our ability to innovate and respond to this need we secured funding to deliver much needed IELTS provision to migrant health professionals.



We have been able to support 34 individuals with IELTS and currently have 28 learners in two IELTS courses. This, alongside the support from NHS Learning Works that the individuals are receiving, has given many of these individuals fresh hope and may be of long term and lasting benefit to the local health sector meeting current skills shortages.

The feedback from our learners is testament to the importance and benefit our IELTS provision is having on them and shows how vital access to a wide range of English Language support is to new communities and the innovative role community-based organisations can play in delivering this provision.

² <http://www.uia-initiative.eu/en/uia-cities/birmingham>

Addressing poverty

Restrictions on access to welfare benefits for migrants continue to have an impact on our service users and whilst Universal credit has not been fully rolled out in Sandwell we have seen several cases where some of our clients have not been able to navigate the system and proceed with their claim. We have seen and supported an increasing number of individuals with No Recourse to Public funds this year, providing advocacy and practical support.



- In 2016/17 we provided 4064 food bags, this year we provided 4432
- In 2017/18 we made 187 referrals to Smethwick food bank
- We have increased the number of baby packs provided to vulnerable women with new babies.
- We provided 627 clothing packs to individuals in 2017/18

The hardship faced by Refugees experiencing delays in support from the transition from Asylum support to mainstream benefits has been one of the real challenges we have documented and addressed with the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) and Job Centre Plus (JCP) colleagues this year. The response from DWP and JCP colleagues to the evidence we have presented has been really positive and resulted in significant change for our refugee service users.

We are continuing to evidence the impact of poverty on our service users, meeting urgent need where we can, advocating for those who are being denied their entitlement and highlighting the need of those for whom there is no welfare safety net.

Speaking up for those who cannot speak for themselves, supporting those who can

Our outreach and advice work provides a much needed welcome, orientation, information and advice to asylum seekers, refugees and vulnerable migrants. Our ability to identify, document and respond to social policy issues has been most obvious in our work on the Refugee Homelessness Prevention pathway where the delays in benefit for many refugee families has caused extreme hardship. As noted above our engagement with DWP and JCP managers has led to a reduction in clients wait for benefits from between 6 -8 weeks to an average of 1-2 weeks. From January 2018 we have seen a number of cases where individuals moved directly from Asylum Support onto welfare benefits. This represents a huge turnaround for service users this year and highlights the importance of evidence-based policy work.

The need for advocacy for those with No Recourse to Public Funds has grown this year. It remains frustrating that vulnerable families are often only able to receive assessments, and in some cases support, after hours of advocacy from our staff or legal representatives we have referred families to. The profile of those coming for support and advice shows greater numbers of EU nationals and their dependants approach us this year.

The case studies in our outreach and advice section demonstrate the complexity of issues Brushstrokes staff and volunteers deal with.



- **78 refugee households in Sandwell supported through the Refugee Homelessness Prevention Pathway.**
- **56 Households supported by our Private Sector Housing projects**
- **30 households supported with the prevention of homelessness or securing alternative accommodation**

Supporting Migrants in the Private rented sector

Sustaining the private sector housing project and being able to recruit four peer housing mentors from migrant backgrounds enabled us to provide more information and support to migrants renting in the private sector this year. Running four community-based events on tenants' rights and responsibilities increased requests for advice on housing issues and highlighted significant gaps in documentation and statutory obligations for migrant tenant.

The relationship with Sandwell Council private sector housing lead, Sandwell Landlords Forum and local landlords has been maintained. We have increased engagement with landlords over the past 12 months. Three migrant tenant and landlord events created opportunity for migrant renting in the private sector to share their experience and concerns about renting with landlords and to hear about the challenges landlords face. These sessions have led to several new tenancies for our service users and an increased willingness of some landlords to consider individuals this project is actively supporting when suitable accommodation becomes available.

Immigration

Brushstrokes was successful in its application to be regulated by the OISC to provide immigration advice in July 2017 and Salman Mirza is authorised to provide immigration advice at Brushstrokes. The OISC registration is a significant bonus for the organisation and we are very grateful to Salman continuing to deliver this work on our behalf. The demand for the weekly drop in continues to increase and we have recently need to take steps to manage the demand.



Over 350 clients seen at the Immigration drop-in last year

Two of our staff completed immigration training and level 1 this year as part of the Refugee Action frontline immigration advice pilot³. The lack of free immigration advice at the higher levels in Sandwell and the Black Country is an issue we have been working on with other local agencies and are looking at ways to resource this in the year ahead. The need for clarity about immigration and rights and entitlements for EU citizens as Brexit moves closer reinforces the need for this to be a priority for next year.

³ <https://www.refugee-action.org.uk/project/frontline-immigration-advice-project/>

Partnership and networking

We have been active in building closer working relationships with local and national organisations working on aspects of migration this year. Our involvement in the Community Advocacy Project created opportunities for us to work alongside three organisations who work with EU nationals. This is leading to further collaboration and our joint delivery of advice at a local venue with Emconet. We have sustained our involvement in local networks focused on migration, advice, employment and equalities. We have been active members of Sandwell Consortium and contributed to regional networks on destitution and migrant health.



The USE-IT! project has created new opportunities to work alongside other voluntary sector organisations, the NHS, Birmingham University, Birmingham City Council and Sandwell Council in the delivery of the community research and skills audit work packages. The legacy of work with asylum seekers and refugees has created opportunities to work alongside Refugee Action on a number of initiatives in 2018.

Communications



The development and launch of our website has been a major achievement this year. Work is almost complete on a mobile phone app for service users on Brushstrokes which we hope will improve new arrivals connection to us and enable us to provide early information, advice and support. Roy Garside deserves special recognition for his work on these projects.

Our Priorities for 2018/19

1. Identify suitable premises that enable us to sustain the delivery of our services.
2. Increase our capacity to deliver IELTS for migrant health professionals.
3. Secure funding to expand Immigration advice at Brushstrokes.
4. Increase access to information and advice for asylum seekers and refugees through the training and recruitment of additional advisers and advice drop-in sessions.
5. Sustain the work with migrants and landlords in the private rented sector and recruit further peer housing mentors to support this work.
6. Build on our existing relationship with new EU community organisations and develop new approaches to understand, inform and respond to the impact of Brexit on EU nationals.
7. Sustain and develop our strategic engagement with local, regional and national networks dealing with asylum and migration and provide evidence from our work that can influence social policy.

Valuing our service users:

The views of those who use our service are important in helping us to review and prioritise our services and provide vital insight into unmet and emerging needs. A renewed effort has been made this year to ensure greater feedback on the impact our work makes and what we could improve. Focus groups have been held with different groups to consider the impact on the following issues as a result of coming to Brushstrokes:

- Changes in health and wellbeing.
- The impact of our resource provision on healthier lifestyles.
- Increased confidence and ability to play a more active role within the community.
- Experience of the refugee homelessness prevention pathway

Feedback from the homelessness prevention pathway is changing our approach to ensure asylum seekers are provided with more information at the beginning of their stay in Sandwell. Service user evaluations have been completed throughout the year in a range of our projects.

The following quotes from service users highlight the difference we are making:

- *“You have helped me with nice food for me and my daughter. You have given me warm clothes, bed covers and duvets.”*
- *“You have helped me a lot. And helped me with my CV. Now I am working, thanks to Brushstrokes.”*
- *“The thought that Brushstrokes is here helps me feel confident. I know I am not alone. I would like to pay back into the community by helping the elderly.”*
- *“I feel confident to ask Brushstrokes for any help because I know that you will do your best to help me.”*
- *“I came to Brushstrokes in 2009 from London. Before, I was working with children and also ballroom dancing. Then I lost all confidence. Now Brushstrokes is helping me again and I am a volunteer with you. You gave me information and you help me meet people here.”*
- *“They help with all my problems, I don’t know what more they could do, they are brilliant”*

Who we welcomed in 2017/18

This section highlights the volume and diversity of those who have come to Brushstrokes for support during April 2017 – March 2018. We have seen an increased number of clients from a wider range of nationalities and wider geographical area.



- 1233 service users



41% male



59% female

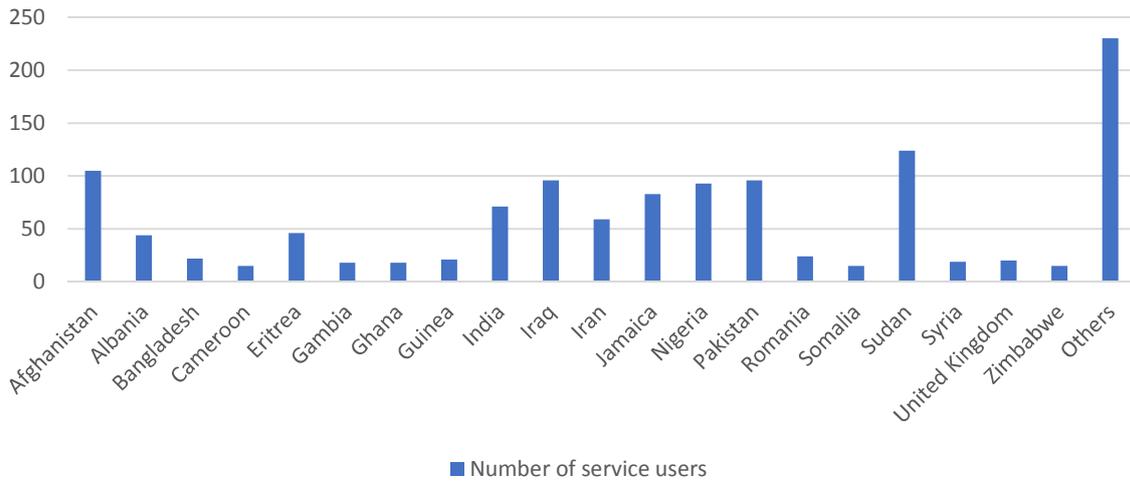


- 78 different nationalities
- Up from 62 nationalities in 2016/17
- 2017/18 has seen an increase in service users from Sudan, Eritrea and EU member states.

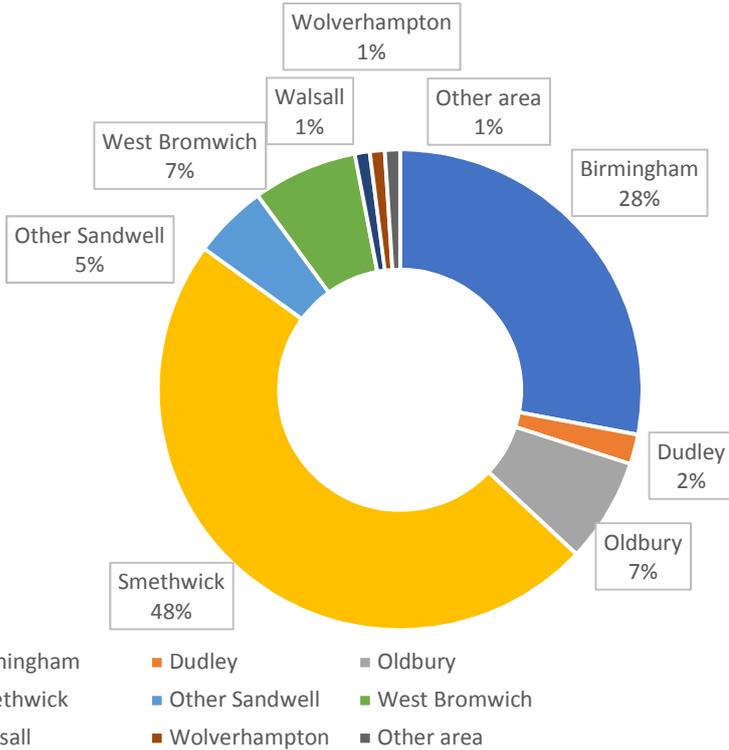
Country of origin for service users in 2017/18

Afghanistan	Albania	Algeria	Angola	Bangladesh	Belgium
Bosnia - Herzegovina	Botswana	Cameroon	Chile	China	Congo
Democratic Republic of Congo	Ecuador	Egypt	Eritrea	Ethiopia	France
Gambia	Grenada	Ghana	Hungary	India	Iran
Iraq	Italy	Ivory Coast	Jamaica	Japan	Jordan
Kenya	Kurdistan	Kuwait	Latvia	Lebanon	Lesotho
Libya	Lithuania	Mali	Malawi	Malaysia	Mauritius
Morocco	Nepal	Netherlands	New Zealand	Niger	Nigeria
Pakistan	Palestine	Poland	Portugal	Romania	Russia
Saudi Arabia	Serbia	Sierra Leone	Slovakia	Somalia	South Africa
Sri Lanka	Spain	St Vincent	Sudan	Sweden	Switzerland
Syria	Tanzania	Thailand	Turkey	Uganda	United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom	United States of America	Vietnam	Yemen	Zimbabwe	

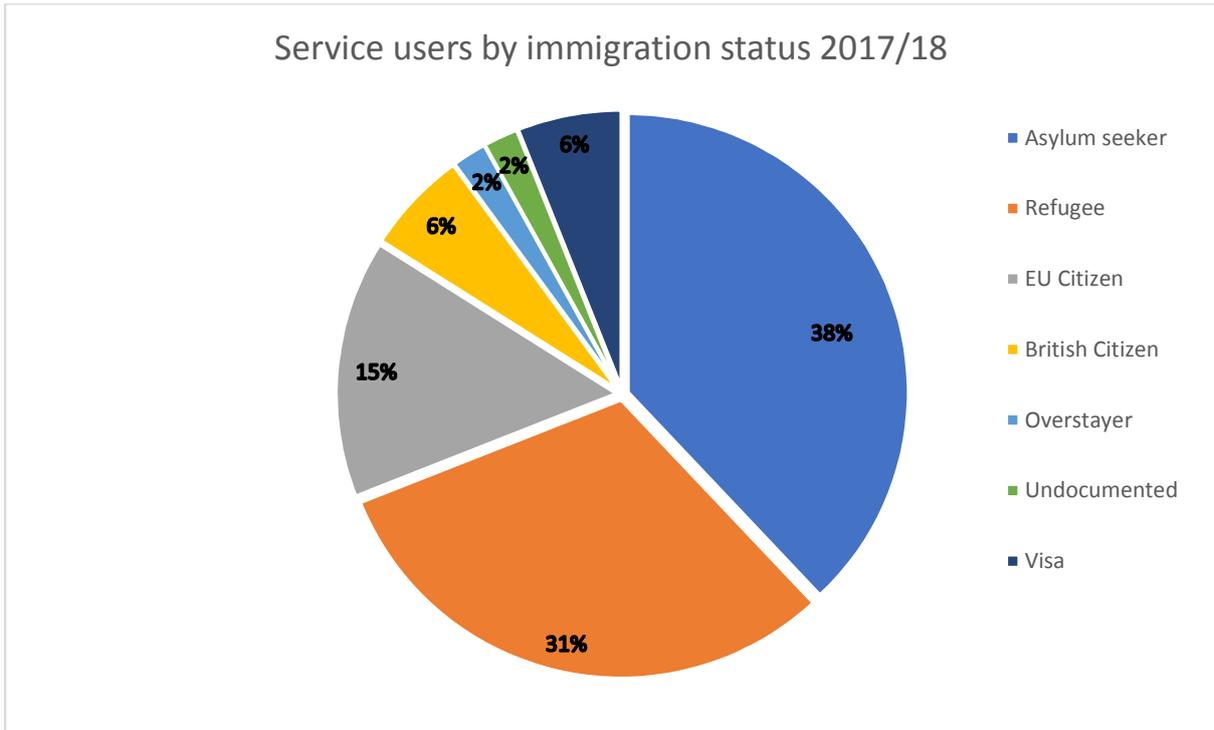
Number of service users by nationality 2017/18



Service users by area of residence 2017/18

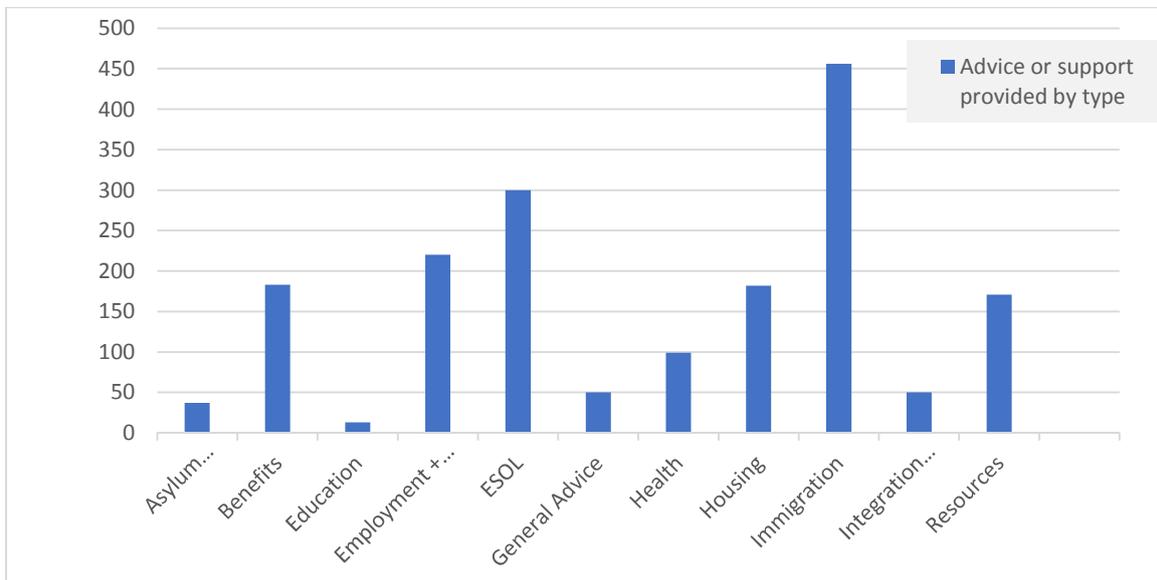


Our data highlights the continued demand from service users in Birmingham with significant numbers of individuals coming from Handsworth and Ladywood. We also see small increases in clients coming from Dudley, Wolverhampton and Oldbury.



We worked with greater numbers of refugees this year, up from 18% 2016/17. EU citizens, as a proportion of all service users, also increased, linked in part to the expansion of work with migrants in the private rented sector.

Type of support or advice requested by service users in 2017/18



The demand for support and advice on immigration, housing, benefits, ESOL and health have all increased this year in contrast with 2016/17.

A more detailed overview of the work within our various projects and services is provided in the following section of the report.

ESOL : Developing language, building integration

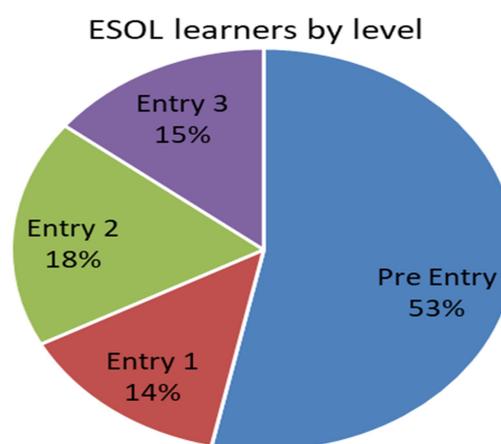
ESOL Classes run from Monday to Thursday. With a growing number of people coming to Brushstrokes for support, it has become difficult accommodate the number of classes we need to run in our building. Two classes per week now take place at Smethwick Baptist Church and one at the Windmill Centre. A further IELTS course will begin on 18th April which will bring the total number of classes per week to 23.

We now have 3 IELTS teachers employed on a sessional basis, 13 volunteer teachers and 7 volunteer teaching assistants.

The largest percentage of learners continues to be at Pre-Entry/Foundation level and a high proportion of those learners, mainly, but not exclusively women, received little

Pre Entry (Foundation)	45
Pre Entry 2 (Literacy)	19
Pre Entry (SBC)	10
Entry 1	25
Entry 2	33
Entry 3	26
Family Learning	7
IELTS	34
Life in the UK	12
Better Health	15

or no schooling in their home country.



- **226** individuals have attended classes at Brushstrokes between September 2017 – April 2018
- **77%** are women
- **23%** are men
- **54** asylum seekers (27 male , 27 female)

Afghanistan	44	Ghana	1	Slovakia	2
Albania	5	Guinea	12	Somalia	2
Angola	1	India	8	Sri Lanka	2
Bangladesh	4	Iran	9	Sudan	39
Brazil	1	Iraq	43	Syria	2
Chile	1	Italy	3	Tanzania	1
DR Congo	1	Morocco	1	Turkey	1
Egypt	1	Pakistan	17	UK	1
Eritrea	3	Romania	6	USA	1
Ethiopia	2	Russia	2	Yemen	1

Learners came from 30 different countries of origin with the highest percentages coming from Kurdistan, Iraq (20%), Afghanistan (20%) and Sudan (18%). The number of learners from Sudan has increased from 13 in 2016-17 to 39 this year. This is partly due to an increase in single young male asylum seekers but also to the fact that there are 14 out of 34 Sudanese health professionals on IELTS courses.

There is a high turn-over of young male asylum seekers. This is due, in part, to people moving away from the area when they get leave to remain and also people applying to college as soon as they are eligible.

Support for satellite sites

We continue to support classes at Bearwood Chapel by offering exams for their students. Reading and writing exams take place at either Brushstrokes or Bearwood Chapel, speaking and listening at Brushstrokes in June/July. All exams are administered by Brushstrokes ESOL Coordinator.

Two classes a week take place at Smethwick Baptist Church with two members of the congregation regularly helping with the classes.

We also continue to work closely with local ESOL teacher Jose Galindez (who is himself an asylum seeker) and have provided resources and support for his local, volunteer led ESOL classes. Resources have also been provided for volunteers at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Old Hill. These resources enable volunteers to support beginners on an informal basis during welcome and drop-in sessions.

"I have enjoyed every morning that I have worked with (teacher) Melanie I find the group enthusiastic to learn and Melanie has a way of making everyone feel at home no-one feels afraid of getting things wrong. I am learning a lot too." *Pat, Volunteer classroom assistant, Smethwick Baptist Church.*

Exam achievement (ESOL)

March 2017 – March 2018

Reading Entry 1	11
Reading Entry 2	14
Reading Entry 3	12
Reading Level 1	1
Writing Entry 3	2
Speaking and Listening Entry 1	19
Speaking and Listening Entry 2	7
Speaking and Listening Entry 3	4
	70

Fewer exams were held this year between March 2017 and March 2018 due to the increased workload of the ESOL coordinator and the addition of IELTS courses.

Reading exams are planned for May 2018 and three days of speaking exams are booked for July 2018.

IELTS (international English Language Testing System)

Since July 2017, we have been working with USE-IT! (Unlocking Social and Economic Innovation Together), a UIA project funded by the European Regional Development Fund. As a partner in the project Brushstrokes is providing IELTS courses. Assessment workshops in July gave 23 potential IELTS students the opportunity to do a mock IELTS test, receive feedback about their band level and develop a strategy for how to improve. 14 students then attended 8 test preparation workshops throughout August 2017. Feedback from the workshops was very positive. The following quote from Nav at NHS Learning Works shows the value of our partnership and recognises the contribution we have been able to make.

“Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals, in collaboration with Brushstrokes have embarked upon an innovative project to deliver specialist English training to local overseas Doctors and Nurses as part of their return to practice journey.

Using funds secured through European projects, the NHS are committed to supporting local professionals to access the profession that they are passionate about. Brushstrokes have demonstrated that, with commitment and access to specialist training, progress can be made to support successful achievements in the IELTS qualification.

SWBH are proud to partner with Brushstrokes on this exciting and rewarding collaboration.”

Nav Sharma, Use-it Project Administrator

The workshops were a “very useful start point. I didn’t know how to start or from where. Now I start seriously reading and definitely see myself a little start to improve.” *Rawdah, Dentist, from Sudan*

A regular IELTS class for 14 students ran once a week from September – December. Two students took and passed their IELTS in December 2017.



“By the grace of GOD I got my result in IELTS exams securing band 7 which was never possible without the hard work and untiring efforts of my teacher, Jane, at Brushstrokes. Now I am preparing for my ORE (Overseas Dentist Registration Exam) and I am very optimistic about my future in the UK.” *Mohammed, dentist, from Pakistan*

In January 2018 we were granted funding through Use-it which enabled us to employ two IELTS teachers and to increase the number of students to 28. The cohort is made up as follows :

Doctors	15	Dentists	3	Lab technician	1
Midwife	1	Nurses	7	Pyschologist	1

A further 14 students have been registered and assessed and will be starting a new IELTS course on April 18th, 2018. IELTS class attendance is excellent and the students are highly motivated. Most people have to achieve Academic IELTS Band 7 or 7.5 which is a high level of academic English. Running alongside taught IELTS provision, Cape Hill Medical centre provided two six-week evening courses for doctors. We are grateful to Dr Laura Pugh and Dr Iriel Eno for giving students the opportunity to discuss medical issues, practise their English and role-play communicating with patients. Students have said how valuable these sessions are.

We also provide a weekly conversation group for IELTS students to practise their spoken English. Run by volunteer Steve Hardman, this has also given added value to our ESOL provision.

I think the course is helping me in many ways. First, I met other students who need to pass the IELTS exam, and we start to motivate each other and made a study group. Second, the tutor is doing a great job by providing valuable material which can help us to practise. Finally, the continuous support from our tutor checking extra work and giving books to overcome our weaknesses is really great.

Maha, doctor from Sudan

I can honestly say it is the best IELTS preparation course in Birmingham and I have learnt a lot since I joined it. This is because it combines IELTS teaching with general English so you know which tense to use for each writing task. Thank you Jane and Dee for all your effort to help us.

Najla, doctor from Sudan

“The IELTS course has been very helpful so far. It has increased my vocabulary and my grammar has improved so much. I can now speak English fluently and confidently. Prior to this course, I blindly spoke English with lots of mistakes and this course has opened my eyes and I can now speak English much more accurately. I am deeply grateful for all your support. Thank you.”

Farhad, doctor, from Afghanistan

Partnership Working

Ceal

From September 2017 to March 2018 we worked in partnership with Community Education Academy of Leadership (CEAL). CEAL worked with 48 students to deliver the ESF funded Sandwell Employment Education Development (SEED) project. All the learners were appreciative of the dedicated support that they received centred around CV writing as well as other career related information. *CEAL Manager, Harminder Boghal* expressed her gratitude to Brushstrokes for:

“the opportunity to connect with the learners in order to help enhance the lives of the local people at local level. We hope that this partnership will continue and last for a very long time.”

Time Bank

By January 2018, we had a large mixed ability foundation class. With the help of Time Bank we were able to split the class and give a group of women beginners the opportunity to have focused learning in a smaller class of 8 students. All the ladies made progress and when the Time Bank *Talking Together* course finished in March, the smaller class continued to be taught by the ESOL Coordinator and volunteer Hajar Kanani with a greater focus on reading and writing.

“We really enjoy working in partnership with Brushstroke. The staff have a shared vision of improving the lives and opportunities of their beneficiaries. They have a well organised team who always offer a warm welcome to Time Bank staff and volunteers.” *Jenny Brown, Project Coordinator Talking Together*

Case Study

Mussab came from Sudan in November 2013. He had been imprisoned in Sudan for opposition to the political system. He escaped and fled Sudan before completing his law degree. In the UK he claimed asylum and was housed in Smethwick. Mussab came to Brushstrokes for English classes as well as for food and resources. With determination and strength of spirit, Mussab worked hard and his spoken English improved quickly. He struggled with reading and writing but was determined to develop his literacy skills to be able to understand and fill in the innumerable forms he needed to complete. To begin with, we helped with form filling but as his written English improved, he became more independent. He was granted leave to remain in 2015 and his wife, Safa, came to the UK to join him. She initially came to English classes at Brushstrokes but is now at South and City College. They have a 20 month old son and another child due in October. Mussab’s English continues to improve and with help from Brushstrokes workclub, he has found work in the security industry. Mussab is now working to support his family and is at Wolverhampton University completing his law degree.

Volunteering – Opening doors and creating opportunities

Volunteers enable us to deliver the wide range of projects at Brushstrokes and their contribution to the work of Brushstrokes is as vital as ever. This year saw us exceed our target for volunteer recruitment having made changes in processing of volunteer applications. We ran nine recruitment events with our partners this year which yielded additional volunteer enquiries.

Over the past year we have also celebrated the retirement of two of our long-standing volunteers Patricia and Michael Weir and four volunteers gaining of employment.



- 41 Active volunteers
- 19 volunteers recruited and retained this year
- 14 Volunteers are refugees or migrants
- 4 volunteers gained employment in the past year



- 16 Volunteers come from Smethwick
- 4 from neighbouring wards



- 3606 hours of volunteering
- 875 hours of student involvement



- 9 volunteers gained level 2 Food Safety Certificates
- 2 housing mentors gained level 2 Information, advice and guidance qualifications



- Value of volunteer contribution to the organisation this year is over £50,000⁴ a real increase on 2016/17

We have supported students from the University Of Birmingham, Birmingham City University, Newman University, Manresa House and St. Mary's College, Oscott this year. All students were supported and supervised and have help make an impact on our services by their research and support. Studies have included research into the experience of refugee resettlement, evaluating the impact of our baby packs for new mums and migrants experience of private rented accommodation and the impact of Brexit.

“It was a great experience working with your organisation... I wish the Government will be more supportive and continue to render necessary funding to support projects like yours delivered towards the improvement of the life of vulnerable and less advantaged people within our communities.” University of Birmingham Student

⁴ Calculated using the same method as described in ‘CAVA Volunteer Management Budgeting Planner’ www.wcava.org.uk/volunteering/resource-library

Volunteering can provide individuals with the skills and experience to move into employment. Over this reporting period we have celebrated the fact that four of our volunteers have left us for employment. In February's newsletter we celebrated their success and thanked them for all their time.



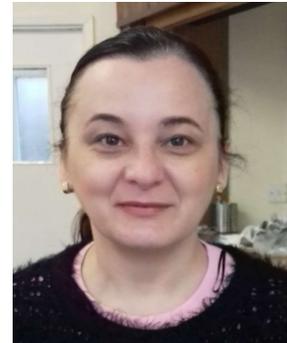
Sareeta (Esol)



Parveen (Resources)



Mohammad
(Administration)



Steluta (Catering)

*"I have been successful in gaining employment and I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to volunteer at Brushstrokes which gave me valuable experience in the workplace and in turn gave my confidence a boost to move forward in gaining employment. Thanks again." **Sareeta***

Community Café a Wonderful place of Welcome

Over the past year the café has welcomed people from over thirty- four different countries and has served up over one thousand, four hundred and forty hot meals. It has been running at full capacity serving of over thirty per week. It run by a wonderful team of volunteers who create a real atmosphere of welcome. The catering volunteer team also prepared food for our annual Christmas party.



- 1448 meals served this year



- Individuals from over 30 nationalities have used the café in 2017/18
- 35% of our service users are UK born and live locally
- 17% were Eastern European
- 22% were African
- 18% were Asian

This year the Café has benefits hosted visits from young people from the National Citizens Service, the Archbishop of Birmingham, the Rt Hon John Spellar MP, as part of Parliament week , the Choir with no name and Birmingham Opera.

The Big Lunch and Annual Christmas party.

Another great success this year was our community lunch in June with 56 people from the local community attending and sharing their food and friendship



We received a fantastic response from our volunteers to assist and help out with our annual Christmas Party which was a great success with over 50 families and over 120 children attending and receiving presents.



Through our **Cape Hill Cooking Champions** project 5 cooking demonstrations focused on food from a different country were held between July and August. As a result of these sessions and using local people and volunteers the Brushstrokes Community Recipe Book (*Available on our Website*) was produced containing 20 recipes from around the world and produced. The process helped to encourage people to come forward and not only supply recipes but also to become volunteers.

“I never thought that my picture and recipe would be published. I am proud to show all my friends and family” Vana

A group of volunteers and service users attend a ‘farm to fork’ session at TESCO Springhill and visited another community café in Malvern Hills to exchanges practice on running community cafés.

We have a wonderful team of volunteers who give up their free time every week and without whom we would not be able to respond to the many and growing needs of the area.

Not only do we have volunteers who help with ESOL classes, food and clothing parcels, outreach, work club, catering and administration we have seen the development of additional roles such as housing mentors and home support. Due to the increasing needs in the area we shall be looking forward to expanding our services and recruiting even more volunteers to act as “Asylum Guides”.



Outreach and Advice : Welcoming the stranger

The outreach and advice team aims to visit all newly dispersed asylum seekers, providing a welcome and introduction to Brushstrokes and the local area and offering appropriate information advice and support. Home visits and befriending support is also offered to vulnerable migrants across Sandwell and West Birmingham. Our proactive approach to outreach and door-knocking helps us to find individuals who may be unaware of advocacy services in the area or who face barriers in accessing these services due to language, mobility and lack of resources to travel.

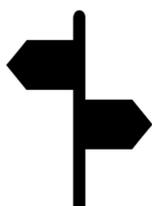
We supported small number of very vulnerable clients who have grown in confidence as a result of visits and befriending. Delivering resources e.g. food parcel and/ or baby items with a smile, warmth and having a chat over a cup of tea has made a significant difference to our most vulnerable clients. These included single women in the late stages of pregnancy, families with complex health problems and families with No recourse to public funds.

Our work is made possible by a growing team of volunteers. This year we developed more structured training programme. Having a team of trained casework volunteers meant that we were able to meet the demand of number of clients coming into the office seeking support. The outreach and advice team includes three casework volunteers and four outreach volunteers visiting clients at home.



- 484 home visits
- 24 befriending relationships

Service users provided with outreach and advice lived in the following areas:



and

- 51% in Smethwick
- 8% in West Bromwich
- 7% in Oldbury
- 6% in Handsworth
- 4% in Ladywood
- 3% in Harborne
- 19% other areas of Sandwell, Birmingham, Dudley, Walsall

Wolverhampton

Service users have continued to benefit from a weekly advice service provided by Sandwell Consortium and Sandwell Citizens Advice Click Start project. The capacity to access additional support to develop online skills to manage digital claims, improve employability and money management prove invaluable to our service users.

Refugee homelessness prevention pathway: Opening doors

Sandwell is second only to Birmingham in having the highest number of asylum seekers in accommodation in the West Midlands. As a result there are higher numbers of singles and families who are granted refugee status and require support to manage their transition from asylum support and accommodation. Sandwell Council has developed a unique approach to address the needs of refugees at this point in their lives. The Refugee homelessness prevention pathway is intended to ensure individuals receive information, advice and practical support to prevent their homelessness once Asylum support ceases. Brushstrokes has worked with Sandwell Council to support refugees as part of this pathway for the past three years.

Brushstrokes contacts individuals and offers support to address housing, welfare benefits and a range of other factors that can assist refugees in the resettlement process. Following an initial assessment our team provide advice on housing options, support with applications for National Insurance Numbers and Welfare benefits where required.

Support is offered to individuals / families to help them sustain a tenancy, including financial capability and budgeting support and referral to other agencies as appropriate for up to 6 months. Finally, we help identify and support employment, education and training needs and refer onto other agencies as appropriate or into other Brushstrokes services.

In 2017/18 the project had the following outcomes :



- 78 refugee households provided with support
- 4 Integration loans awarded
- 13 households received ongoing support to manage their tenancy
- 2 individuals moved into private rented accommodation
- 8 refugees went on to gain employment

Refugees settled in the following areas



- Birmingham
- Glasgow
- London
- Sandwell
- Walsall

Single refugees continue to face the greatest hurdles in securing accommodation, all but two of our clients moved to Birmingham this year. We work closely with two housing associations who provide accommodation for refugees, but they lack any units in Sandwell. Refugees remain reluctant to consider private sector accommodation, but for singles who wish to remain in Sandwell this is currently the only option.

One success this year has been built on the work of our Private Sector Housing Project and the relationships made with local landlords, leading to two tenancies for refugees in Sandwell.

Refugees have faced significant delays in the processing and payment of benefits leaving many without any financial support for several weeks. At the end of 2017 our clients waited on average between 6-8 weeks for benefits. One vulnerable family with 3 children experienced a delay of 12 weeks from initial claim to payment. Having documented the issues refugees were facing and worked with local DWP and Job Centre Managers to understand and improve the process we have seen a marked reduction in processing times. In the last past quarter several clients had no delay between Asylum support ending and welfare benefits starting. We have been able to continue this positive dialogue with DWP colleagues on the impact of Universal Credit on refugee claimants.

Case Study

Ibrahim is a young man in early thirties from Sudan who arrived in the UK March 2016 and claimed asylum.

Ibrahim was trafficked into the UK for the purpose of exploitation and was granted refugee status in August 2017 and was supported by Home and Outreach Support team at Brushstrokes under the Homeless Prevention Pathway project.

Ibrahim's knowledge of English was very limited and he appeared very shy as he avoided eye contact. However, whilst he was supported by Outreach and Home Support team through his transition from NASS to mainstream benefits/ support, his confidence grew and was generally more talkative.

As a single man, Ibrahim moved to Birmingham with help from outreach and Home Support team and continued to maintain contact with Home and Outreach Support at Brushstrokes and introducing other Sudanese clients to Brushstrokes and interpreting for them if required.

Ibrahim enrolled to college to study Maths and English, progressed very quickly. He completed a course in Security and is now working as a Security Guard at night whilst continuing to study during the day.

Ibrahim shared his ambition with Outreach and Home Support team by explaining that he is keen to learn and progress in order to be able to earn a good salary, save money and bring his wife and their two children from Sudan into the UK.

Ibrahim said: **“Brushstrokes gave me my life back.”**

Immigration Advice

Immigration status plays an increasingly important role in determining the rights and entitlements of many people within our community. The need for immigration advice, particularly at higher levels, seems to be increasing and the level of provision in this area has not kept pace with the demand. It remains a struggle to find places to refer individuals to where they need more than level 1 advice in our area.

Brushstrokes was successful last year in its application to be regulated by the Immigration Services Commissioner. Salman is authorised to provide immigration advice to level 3 at our weekly drop-in. We are extremely fortunate that Salman provides his time to run these clinics and provide much needed advice to our clients. We have seen over 350 individuals at our weekly clinics this year and regularly see 20 clients coming to each advice session.

We continue to look for additional resources to expand our immigration advice capacity. Two members of staff have participated in the Refugee Action frontline immigration advice pilot this year and we hope they will secure accreditation with the OISC shortly.

We are seeing significantly more clients from Birmingham who come to us for immigration advice when compared to our other services.

- 39% of immigration clients lived in Birmingham
- 45% in Sandwell
- 7% from Dudley
- 4% from Walsall
- 3% Wolverhampton
- The rest were from other areas.

We are aware that the uncertainties around Brexit and the current restrictions on EU citizens access to benefits and housing assistance are likely to increase the demand for immigration advice in the year ahead. We are working with local organisations to identify resources to meet this need.



Supporting Migrants in the Private Rented Sector: Finding and keeping a place to call home

Migrant Voice, Migrant Housing solutions

We entered the final year of the '**Migrant Voice, Migrant Housing solutions**' project, funded by Barrow Cadbury Trust in 2017. The project aimed to provide advocacy and support to migrants renting in the private sector, enabling individuals to secure or sustain tenancies and support migrants to have a collective voice on housing issues. The project provided advocacy and raised awareness of housing rights for private tenants and created opportunity to engage with local landlords through Sandwell Landlords forum and a landlord and tenant event. It highlighted the need, particularly among EU nationals for accessible information and advice and the challenges faced by welfare restrictions that particularly affected this group, whose only housing option appears to be the private sector.

One of the aims of the project had been to dispel myths about migrant tenants and increase the access to private sector accommodation for this group. The feedback from the landlord and migrant tenant events in this project, and the subsequent one funded by TDS Charitable foundation, highlighted the change in perceptions among many landlords who attended. We secured a tenancy from one of the landlords present at the engagement event for a family who needed housing.

A lasting legacy from our small community Advocacy project has been the development of a housing outreach clinic with Emconet, enabling their community to access housing advice and information.

Safe and Sound

The work with migrant tenants and landlords has been sustained and developed through funding from the TDS Charitable Foundation. In the '**Safe and Sound Project**' we have been able to train and develop several peer housing mentors, run more landlord and migrant tenant meetings and continue with some community information events on tenants' rights and responsibilities. Landlords have expressed renewed interest in considering prospective tenants who are supported by the project. As the project enters its last six months we are trying to focus more work with local landlords and seeking to identify what additional support they might require when taking on tenants from migrant backgrounds.

Peer mentors

The peer housing mentors, from four different migrant communities, have been a real asset to the project, being able to support information sessions in their own communities, increasing their knowledge of what can be done if people get into difficulty with their tenancy. They have referred individuals from their community for housing advice when problems occurred. Two mentors completed Information Advice and Guidance qualifications and all attended housing foundation training. Mentors have enhanced the migrant voice with regards to private sector housing.



- We worked with 56 households – representing 208 individuals

Clients came from the following areas:



- 77% Sandwell
- 17% Birmingham
- 2% Dudley
- 2% Walsall
- 2% Wolverhampton

Immigration status of households:



- 32 EU nationals
- 12 Refugees
- 4 UK Citizens
- 7 Visa nationals
- 25 different nationalities were represented

Housing related outcomes



- 3 migrant tenant and landlord engagement events
- 11 households threatened with Homelessness supported
- 22 individuals received help looking for alternative housing
- 4 cases of disrepair were resolved
- 35 individuals attended a community information session on Rights and responsibilities of private sector tenants.
- Developed relationships with 7 new landlords

Community information sessions

Four community information sessions on private tenants' rights and responsibilities have been held this year with different migrant communities in Sandwell. The sessions identified worrying gaps in the knowledge of those present of their housing rights and the range of documentation and protection they should have at the start of their tenancy. This lack of sometimes statutory documentation has been raised with our colleagues at Sandwell Council. This included lack of awareness of the tenancy deposit schemes, not being issued with the 'How to Rent' booklet and in some cases not having a Gas Safety Certificates or an EPC certificate for the property.

EU residents and refugees appear through the project to have differing advice and support needs. Those who are settled in the private rented accommodation still require help and support during their tenancies especially with housing and other welfare benefits and form filling. These tenants also require help with energy efficiency and support with managing budgets. Some of the cases need support with resolving problems with landlords like repairs or rent in arrears. Sadly, through the life of the project we have noticed an increase in illegal eviction where landlords are changing locks or threaten and harass tenants. We continue to work closely with Sandwell Council and Birmingham City Council to tackle these issues, whilst continuing to support the tenant.

Case Study

A – 25 years old single man who had just received refugee status had only 3 weeks to leave G4S property. As a single man without any dependants the Local Authority wouldn't not consider him a priority for housing. After receiving a referral from our outreach & home support team we clarified the clients needs and arranged viewing of the private rented property. After single posting to the HMO provider within 2 days A was able to move in to new property. After review and following up A case we have successfully established good connection with new HMO landlord and prevent homelessness. Our evaluation with the client and landlord show positive impact of our work for both parties.

Case study

B a single man from Spain aged 20 came to Brushstrokes to ask for help. He is a full-time student and working part time. He was at high risk of being homeless due to the cancellation of his housing benefits. He said: "I was stressed, I was thinking I will have to leave my house".

We were successful in backdating his benefit claim and securing his tenancy. He said: "When you don't have anybody to help it's difficult, now it's better- when a letter comes I know I need to come to see you".

At the end of this project we spoke with landlord for an update and they confirmed that everything is absolutely perfect. B is very good tenant and they are happy we have helped him to stay in their property.

USE-IT! – innovation and action

Brushstrokes (Father Hudson's Care) is a partner in the European Regional Development fund USE-IT (Unlocking Social and Economic Innovation Together) project. USE-IT! involves organisations and individuals working together to unlock social and economic opportunities in Ladywood, Soho and Smethwick by linking large capital investments (i.e. the new Midlands Metropolitan Hospital, new housing developments and potential plans for the canals and Edgbaston Reservoir) with local skills, talents and micro-capital

This year Brushstrokes has worked alongside Birmingham University to recruit and support the development of a team of community researchers. Two of our volunteers have been some of the first individuals to go through the Open College Network (OCN) accredited community research training programme.

Another key element of our work is identifying individuals in the USE-IT area who have overseas qualifications and providing support to help them explore the options to be able to make use of those qualifications and previous professional work experience. Brushstrokes is providing support to individuals to help them to be work ready and providing advice: advocacy to address practical barriers that are making it difficult to move into employment or training. We have identified 88 individuals with overseas qualifications in this period, 60 of whom have a health qualification.

USE-IT has concentrated in year one on finding individuals with overseas health qualifications and have permission to work. Brushstrokes is working with NHS Learning Works and Karis Neighbourhood Centre as part of this work programme. Language needs have been identified as the major barrier to employment in the NHS for this group of health professionals. The development of the IELTS work has been reported in the ESOL update. IELTS support was provided to 34 individuals last year.

For further information on the USE-IT! Project see:

USE- IT! website link - <http://www.uia-initiative.eu/en/uia-cities/birmingham>

USE -IT! Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/USEITUIA/>



Resources : Simple acts of kindness

Brushstrokes provides food, clothing, baby equipment, baby packs and household items for those in need. We are also a referring agent for Smethwick food bank. We are grateful to all those organisations and individuals who have provided donations of food, finance, clothing and baby equipment over the past year. These simple acts of kindness and generosity make such a difference to all who receive them.

Looking back

It has been a busy year within resources, providing essential items to the many people we serve. New relationships have been established with local schools, community groups & businesses who have helped us with donations of food, clothing & other much needed resources.

Our reach has widened with us seeing an increase in service users from Birmingham areas, due to additional referrals from social services & health services. We have more volunteers helping us on a weekly basis now, including a driver who is able to make collections & deliveries on our behalf.

We distributed even more baby packs in 2017/18 as a result of renewed involvement with health visitors who work in Sandwell & surrounding areas. The health visitors are distributing packs directly to new & expectant mothers, whilst promoting Brushstrokes services. We are picking up requests for further support through this avenue.

This year our resource provision has had the following impact:



4432 mouths we have fed



187 referrals to Smethwick Food Bank



627 Clothing packs provided



89 baby packs provided to expectant mothers



158 individuals received baby equipment



95 sets of toys provided to children of asylum seekers



897 Christmas presents were distributed



189 provisions of household essentials

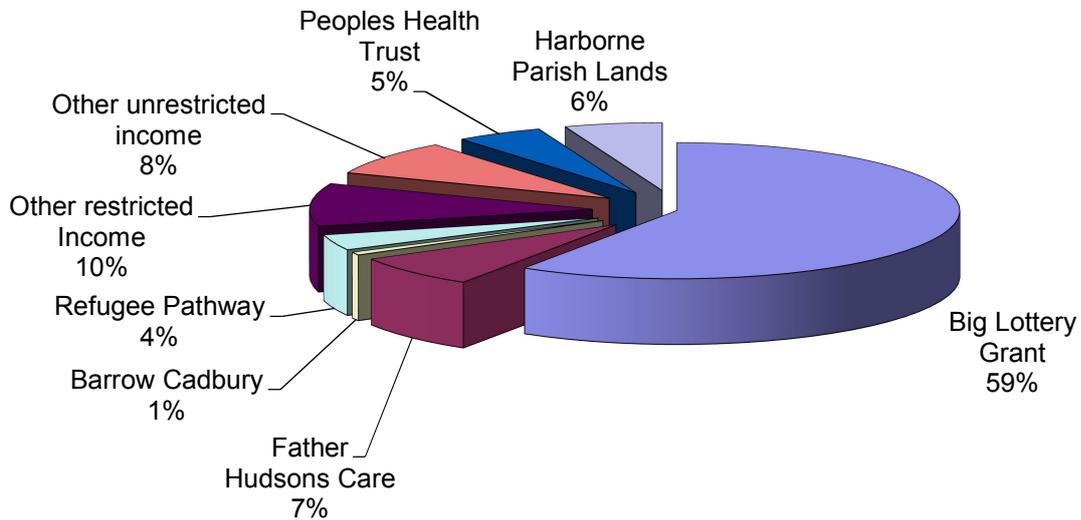
The following quotes from vulnerable new mums and a health visitor highlight the impact receiving a baby pack has:

“Receiving a baby pack made me feel more comfortable & relaxed. I didn’t have to worry myself about clothes for my baby anymore.” – service user

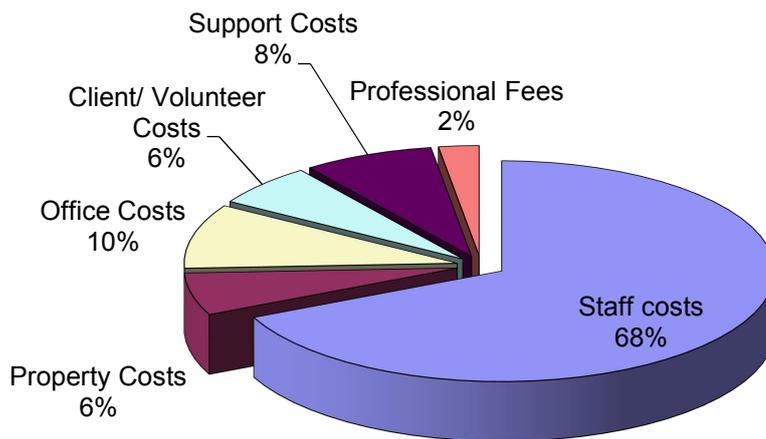
“It helped me a lot as I had just a few clothes for him. After that day I could change his clothes without worrying.” – service user

“Being able to provide a bag of essentials to expecting mums is a wonderful thing & helps them to feel so much more prepared for a stay in hospital. You are providing a much needed service to our women, thank you.” – health visitor

Brushstrokes Income for the Year Ended 31st March 2018 Total £263,883.00



Brushstrokes Expenditure for the Year Ended 31st March 2018. Total £256,886.00



Brushstrokes would not have been able to deliver our range of services without the support of our funders.

We would like to express our thanks to the following

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barrow Cadbury Trust • The Bishop of Lichfield's Lent appeal • The Big Lottery – Reaching communities • Caritas Archdiocese of Birmingham • Harborne Parish Lands • The Peoples Health Trust • Sandwell Consortium – Step Network • Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council • TDS charitable foundation • The Anchor Foundation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ European Regional Development Fund through the Urban Innovative Actions Initiative (USE-IT! Project) ➤ Charlotte Marshall Trust ➤ The Cole Charitable Trust ➤ Edgar E Lawley Foundation ➤ Edward Cadbury Charitable Trust ➤ Lillie Johnson Charitable Trust ➤ The Swan Mountain Trust ➤ Joseph Hopkins Charity
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Donations have been received this year from:

- Parishes, religious orders, schools and organisations within the Archdiocese of Birmingham
- Other faith communities
- Foodbanks in Sandwell and the Black Country
- Asda Foundation
- St Vincent de Paul Society
- Tesco Fareshare food cloud

We would also like to give a special thanks to all those individuals who have donated finance, food and resources to us this year.



If you would like further information about Brushstrokes, would like to volunteer or support our work in any way please contact us at:

Info@brushstrokessandwell.org.uk

Call us on 0121 565 2234

Or call in at St Phillips Centre, Watt Street, Smethwick, B66 3DA

If you would like any further information about this report please contact Dave Newall, Project manager: david@brushstrokessandwell.org.uk