



Revive provides free integrated support and services, run by skilled leaders, which help bring about lasting change in the lives of refugees and people seeking asylum, enabling them to integrate and participate in the life of their new community.

Our vision is to provide high quality services to help refugee and people seeking asylum on their journey of recovery and growth.

**What an exciting few months for Revive!**

**From English classes and fieldtrips, to music therapy workshops; from employability and wellbeing courses to our very own World Cup.**

**Because we believe in Revive's mission and the difference that we can make together.**

**We believe in uniting the community and learning from one another**

**Please read, enjoy and share our news and stories.**

**Uchenna**

## “REFUGEE COMMUNITY LISTENING EVENT”

The ‘Refugee community listening event’ was held on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October at St Aidan’s Centre, in Wythenshawe. The event was organised jointly by Revive, Caritas Salford, Mike Kane MP Wythenshawe & Sale East, Ivy Church, Catholic Children’s society, & Serco.



The listening event was an opportunity for people from the refugee and asylum community to speak out about the challenges they faced



Uchenna, Manager of Revive, speaking at refugee community listening event

We sought to offer a platform through which the asylum and refugee community would be able to make their voices heard, about the matters that directly affect them.

**What were the challenges you faced upon arriving in the UK?**

**What could we have done to make that process a little easier for you?**

Logistical challenges were first to be raised, with many people discussing how difficult it had been for them to access healthcare, education and housing support.

Then the discussions turned to the more emotional side of the challenges that they had to overcome; loneliness, isolation and confusion. When asked what could have been offered to combat these feelings, the simplicity of the suggestions was particularly touching. Many people agreed that to have had a ‘buddy’ to help guide them through the initial months of life in England would have been beneficial. This may be someone who had been through the process already themselves, or even simply someone to accompany them to meetings. But just someone to provide some basic level of personal interaction, that so many are missing.

There were about 110 participants, delegates and service providers present, including MP for Wythenshawe and Sale East; Mike Kane, who said:

**“... human dignity is about allowing life to flourish...”**

He closed the evening with some very powerful words, expressing his wish to build a powerful and united community.



Some of the Revive team with MP Mike Kane, at the refugee community listening conference

## EMPLOYABILITY AND WELLBEING CLASSES

Something that we hear from our service users far too often is of their struggles to find employment and the stress that this can cause. They are desperate to find work and contribute to our society but the first question that employers seem to ask is “what is your experience of working in the UK?” It’s a vicious catch 22.

Revive recognises this, and is now offering weekly workshops supported by the Greater Manchester Refugee Support Project and facilitated by ‘Visible Outcomes’, teaching skills and practical advice for gaining employment. The wellbeing classes offer advice on coping with stress, gaining self-confidence and assertiveness and promotes self-care and healthy eating.

## “ENGLISH CLASSES ARE ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL”

Another very prominent discussion point raised at the conference was the lack of access to affordable English tuition.

“Not being able to speak the language creates an immediate barrier between you and the community”, said one participant. This feeling was echoed across the board.

Revive offers free ESOL English classes every Wednesday at the Spiritan Centre in Salford.

The sessions are run by a team of passionate volunteers, who give lessons and support to newly arrived refugees and asylum seekers. Not only do they offer classroom teaching, but they also arrange field trips and outings, where English skills can be applied to a real-life context. This also helps with the orientation process, which can be very challenging for those who do not have a very high level of English when they arrive.

Gaining English skills drastically improves people’s chances of success and integration in this country.

The response from the students has been very encouraging. They commend the teachers for their patience and innovative methods of teaching.

A team of dedicated students from St Ambrose College, Hale Barns assist with lessons and we thank them for their continual support and enthusiasm.



Volunteer students from St Ambrose College, Hale Barns, giving one to one ESOL English lessons to our service users.



Group English lessons run every week. They are growing in popularity.

### PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION: “WHAT MANCHESTER MEANS TO ME...”

This month, some of our service users entered a photography competition to tell us what Manchester meant to them... With so many beautiful entries, it was difficult to come up with a winner, but we just about managed to narrow it down to these two...



*“This is what Manchester means to me because it reminds me of my childhood days, playing in full blue moon. We had pure and genuine love, laughter and happiness”.*



*“This is what Manchester means to me because this is the place where I find myself free from the rest of the world...” - Leon*

## ONGOING ENRICHMENT PROJECTS

**REVIVE ACTION GROUP (RAG)** - RAG continues to be a success and make phenomenal progress, in their efforts to; impact change in policy, campaign and raise awareness about the stigmas attached to refugees.

**ALLOTMENT PROJECT** - One of our great successes is the community allotment, which is a rare green space to escape the bustle of the city, meet new people and learn about growing produce. Our autumn harvest was particularly fruitful!

**WOMEN’S GROUP** - Every Monday afternoon, the women’s group goes from strength to strength. The ladies come together to support our vital work. Each week they get creative over tea, coffee and conversation! They recently produced a selection of beautifully hand-crafted Christmas cards, which will be sold.

**MUSIC GROUP**- Meeting every Wednesday, the music therapy group is a great chance to let go and express yourself.

**WELLBEING COURSE**- We believe that well-being and growth are very closely related. The well-being course offers advice on dealing with stress, gaining self-confidence and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

**EMPLOYABILITY COURSE**- Our weekly employability course provides people with valuable practical skills in applying for jobs and what it is like to work in the UK.

**ESOL ENGLISH CLASSES**- The weekly English classes continue to provide our clients with the skills and confidence to progress and orientate themselves in the UK, through interactive learning.

**YOUNG ADULT REFUGEE SOCIAL CLUB**- The weekly social club provides an occasion to meet new people and integrate into the community.



## DID YOU KNOW?

According to the UNHCR, 65.3 million people have been displaced. **33,972 people EVERY DAY** are forced to flee their homes due to conflict or persecution.

In 2015, the UK received 38,878 asylum applications, but **only 45% of those applicants were granted asylum**, because it is so difficult to be able to provide the necessary documentation and evidence. This is absolutely shocking and should be avoidable.

This is why Revive's work is more important than ever. We are eternally grateful to our voluntary donors and our current funders; the Spiritans and the Big Lottery. However, in order to maximise the services we can provide, we still need your help. Please, if you have the means to do so; **donate**, as much or as little as you can. Help us to bring justice to the lives of vulnerable people, who so deserve some relief, some peace and sanctuary.

### SOME WORDS FROM OUR SERVICE USERS...

*"Hi, I come to the Revive garden to be in a place that gives me a little space in this mad world. You enter the garden through the iron blue gate and look at the big tree, listening to Mother Earth calling to you. She wraps her branches around you, lets the river in and cleanse you to be free to see a brighter day. To me this is a garden of peace."*

*"Thank you to the Revive organisation for providing me with the necessary support, assistance and advice. Thank you especially to those who helped me to get a travel document in order to get home."*

### CELEBRATING "REFUGEE WEEK"

'Refugee week is a nationwide celebration of arts, cultural and educational events to recognise and celebrate the enormous contributions of refugees to the UK'.

In the months of June and July, FIFA world cup in Africa gripped the world with sport fever with a few nations full of joy and admiration for their team and many others full of disappointment as they have to wait for another four years to take part in the World Cup.

Meanwhile, in sunny Salford the community took part in our own Refugee Week World Cup which brought together 20 teams from across Greater Manchester at Salford Sports Village on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June.



The music workshops are a great way for people to meet and connect.



Our allotment is a peaceful place, full of life and growth

Revive's team registered with other refugee networks in Salford and participated in the event with many of our refugees and asylum seekers coming to support the team. The team spirit was palpable!



The proud Revive team before a match.

**"... THROUGH MUSIC, PEOPLE ARE ABLE TO TAKE BACK CONTROL..."**

Every Wednesday morning, the sound of drums, singing and laughter can be heard streaming from the church hall in Salford.

Revive is now running a weekly music therapy workshop with the help of Toni Beardsall, who works for Nordoff Robbins; an organisation promoting the universal power of music.

*"Ultimately it's about bringing people together", said Toni, "and music inherently does this".*

Creating a feeling of community and building a sense of security is something that we see to be vitally important. Music is a powerful tool in achieving this, as it transcends all language barriers.

*“It is also a powerful reinforcement of culture,”* says Toni. Music is an enormous part of someone’s culture and therefore identity. A losing of sense of identity can have detrimental effects for someone’s self-confidence, which can affect people on a number of levels. Through music, people are able to express themselves in a natural way and can gain confidence by doing so.

The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Amin, one of the beneficiaries, explained that *“sometimes your mind is busy”*, but he added; *“through music and dancing you can relax.”*

Settling into this country can be really tough. For some people, who are struggling every day to; fit in, to make friends, to navigate the complex system, this may be just the way to clear their mind.



All ages welcome! Exposure to music from a young age can have a vastly positive impact on a child’s development.

## A NEW INITIATIVE.

### “REFUGEE COME DINE WITH ME.”

The latest project that we are working on, in our desire to unite the community, is ‘Refugee come dine with me’. Local families will be hosting dinners, at their homes in the heart of the beautiful English countryside, Ribble Valley.

Refugee or asylum seeking families will dine with ordinary British families at their homes. This will be an opportunity to help build an understanding of each other’s cultures and promote integration.



## A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS.

Revive’s incredible work, the enormous accomplishments that have been made, would not be possible without our wonderful volunteer team. While they may come from hugely diverse backgrounds, they have one thing in common- *a fierce determination to improve the lives of the refugee and asylum community.*

We are so very grateful to them for their contributions to interpreting, running projects, social work and immigration services support and are constantly inspired by the goodwill of people in the world.

### FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



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## WE NEED YOU!

Do you appreciate the work we do? Are you passionate about making change? Do you share our vision of supporting vulnerable people and promoting equality? If the answer is yes, we need volunteers like you! We are constantly seeking passionate individuals to assist our team in translating, supporting drop-ins, helping with English classes and running workshops. Get in touch with us today to discuss current volunteer opportunities at Revive. [info@revive-uk.org](mailto:info@revive-uk.org)



[WWW.REVIVE-UK.ORG](http://WWW.REVIVE-UK.ORG)