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Link to original published version: https://research.bournemouth.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Innovation_in_midwifery_education.pdf


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Engaging asylum seeking and refugee women in midwifery education

Melanie Haith-Cooper, Lecturer, University of Bradford
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Who? asylum seeking and refugee (AS&R) women

Voluntary migration
- Economic migrants
- Students
- Spouse visa

Forced migration
- Asylum seekers and refugees
- Trafficked women
- Slaves
Why?

Poor pregnancy outcomes

Voiceless Community

"No decision about me without me" (DH 2012)

Engaging service users in the HEI (DH 2008)

Knowledge and experience of different cultures

DH (2010) Volunteering Agenda
Where?

AS&R women volunteer for the Maternity Stream of the City of Sanctuary

- Established network committed to improve maternity services for AS&R women
- AS&R lead as “didn’t want other mums to suffer as we had suffered”.
- One way by educating the next generation of midwives about women’s needs and experiences

http://www.cityofsanctuary.org/maternity
How?

25+ Volunteers
Bradford Service User group
“Before going, I felt too low for this place. How could I guide students when they know more than me? I pushed myself, I had to do it.”

“Afterwards I felt more confident, more human and valued”

Refugee mum from Ethiopia
What? Assessment

“Before going I was apprehensive and nervous but I was also looking forward to it as the pre meeting made me feel comfortable”

“Doing the role play was eye opening and fun. It was nice to see the variety of ages and nationalities of the students. I would happily go back again”

Refugee mum from Russia
Student 1 “Hearing first hand experiences from women who have gone or currently going through the asylum seeking process about their challenges, fears and experiences made it seem real to me. Now I can incorporate what they taught me into my practise and hopefully make things better for women and families that I may meet in these circumstances in my future practice. It is so much more effective than reading about it in a text book!”

http://maternity.cityofsanctuary.org/films
Impact

- Demystifying university & encouraging AS&R women to train as health professionals
- University recruitment visiting volunteers to explain health professions, entry requirements & support with UCAS
- Students donate unwanted clothes, toys & equipment
- Students pursue topic for studies including interviewing Rose
- Increased volunteers confidence to speak at national, international conferences, in parliament and more…
Maternity Service of Sanctuary (SOS) award

Maternity Service of Sanctuary Award

In recognition of its work and ongoing commitment to provide excellent maternity care for refugees and asylum seekers, The Haamla Service is hereby awarded A Maternity Service of Sanctuary Award

NAME .............................................
ROLE ............................................
Date .............................................

Engage Maternity care providers
Written evidence
1. Learn
2. Embed
3. Share

Celebrate & opportunity for reflective learning
Use Maternity Stream resources
AS&R volunteers help with learning
Evaluation by appraisal group & presentation at award ceremony

Midwifery education departments !!!
‘Excellence in Maternity Care Conference’ template so far..

- Leeds and Bradford (Hull November)
- Waiting list to attend
- Launch of films and award
Student 2 “Of all of the sessions I have partaken in so far in my midwifery training, this one left the biggest impression on me. I will never forget the journeys of the women we were lucky enough to be in the company of, or wiping away tears as unimaginable experiences were recited (with laughter and smiles!) by figures of utter strength and determination. I left the session feeling awe for those who can find the strength required to carry on through such desperate times, and determination to never again show allegiance to a system which only serves to prolong them.”
The Maternity Stream of the City of Sanctuary

http://maternity.cityofsanctuary.org/
Please like us on Facebook

Follow us on Twitter
@maternity_CofS

Any questions ??
References


