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Engaging asylum seeking and refugee women in midwifery education

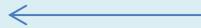
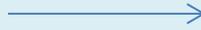
Melanie Haith-Cooper, Lecturer, University of Bradford

Rose McCarthy, National Streams coordinator, City of Sanctuary

Who? asylum seeking and refugee (AS&R) women

Voluntary migration

- Economic migrants
- Students
- Spouse visa



Forced migration

- Asylum seekers and refugees
- Trafficked women
- Slaves



Poor pregnancy outcomes

Voiceless Community

Knowledge and experience of different cultures



“No decision about me without me”(DH 2012)

Engaging service users in the HEI (DH 2008)

DH (2010) Volunteering Agenda

Why?

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



What? Recruitment



“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

What? Teaching



Telling stories of experience of asylum seeking and living in the UK

<http://maternity.cityofsanctuary.org/films>

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!”*

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



***Midwifery education
departments !!!***

- 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

'Excellence in Maternity Care Conference' template so far..

- Leeds and Bradford (Hull November)
- Waiting list to attend
- Launch of films and award



Making a difference



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

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@maternity_CofS

**Any
questions ??**



References

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