



Upbeat Communities is a grassroots not for profit social organisation working in the centre of Derby. It was set up in 2005, by members of Community Church Derby, to improve the lives of newly arrived people in Derby and build cohesion with the established community.

Our vision is to help make the City of Derby a welcoming place for all new arrivals, where everyone can achieve their potential and different communities get on well together.

Our three main aims are to:

Promote Cohesion: *To deliver a range of activities that will foster community cohesion and counter social isolation.*

Build Capacity: *To provide training, entrepreneurial opportunities and support for members of new communities.*

Develop Creativity: *To encourage and develop skills and creativity in culturally diverse communities and the capacity to share those with the wider community.*

We run the following projects and services:

1. Welcome Boxes

Trained volunteers deliver a small box of gifts and welcome information to people who have newly arrived in Derby from other countries. Referrals come from housing providers straight to us. Most successful with refugees and asylum seekers. Volunteers help people access local services eg English and help with tasks like filling in forms or registering at the doctors. It is a very effective tool for getting people connected with British people, our language course, sewing and other projects.

Volunteers: Most from CCD. Volunteers also help with schools to raise awareness and collect welcome boxes.

Clients: 100 families per year, 400 people

Years running – since 2009.

Scale: Currently deliver approx 2 per week to new arrivals (100 per year).

Volunteers – 12 regular, 30 available. Karen Harper co-ordinates

Funding – various small pots of money over the years.

No current funding.

2. English Classes.

We have written an innovative and accessible Welcome to Derby ESOL course. We teach all levels of English through our social enterprise “Derby Language School”. Started by Adam in 2008

Currently deliver approximately 16 classes per week. Led by: Michael Gladwell, with Anthony Adams and other teachers (paid).

Volunteers – 3 volunteers

Clients: 60 per week.

Funding – various small pots of money over the years.

British Buddies to March 31st and St Chads trust until Nov 2015
£44 per week. Becoming self sustaining
DLS Turnover: £1300 this month.
Weekly: 16 classes, 21.5 teaching hours.

3. SEW 2 Work

Learning sewing and business skills. This currently runs a three hour workshop session for refugee women at st Chads. Also developing a business making items for suppliers/ to sell ourselves.

Volunteers: 3

Clients: 15

Funding : St Chads trust. 1.5 more years. £45 per week

Plans to develop workshops for more middle class people who can pay and help fund the refugee work.

Led by: Karina, Theresa, Sarah (some paid some voluntary)

4. Housing.

We currently have one house for our sole use to provide move on accommodation for refugees and destitute asylum seekers. Upbeat Housing is developing as a separate social enterprise as it has a wider vision to help different charities house their clients.

Volunteers: 2

Clients: 7, 4 currently

Funding: Accommodation is funded through rent and housing benefit, some donations and volunteer support.

Led by: Karina with support from Louise and Ali.

5. STEP 2 Work - Employment and Enterprise Training.

Helping refugees and other new arrivals find work or set up their own business. Includes training sessions, mentoring, job club and work placements.

Funding: 10K from April – September.

Led by; Louise Allen co-ordinating the project and sessional tutors - Karina and Elliot Cooper

Clients: 18 participants.

6. Community Cohesion Projects

We co-ordinate Refugee Week in the city and Karina has been asked to chair the new Derby City of Sanctuary group. Our Food Shared Food. Regular lunches on Thursdays at St Chads. Recipe book published

Funding: Various partners.

Volunteers: 6 – 20.

Led by: Karina

Clients: 400

General Funds.

Our current base at St Chad's and some English and sewing classes are supported by funds obtained by the St Chad's Trust until Nov 2015. Step 2 Work funded to end Sept 14. EMCF supports Upbeat approximately £100 per month. St Stephens church donation 1200 pa.

Karina Martin, March 2014