Emotional support and positive activities

UASC conference, Oxford

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http://www.asylum-welcome.org/
Asylum Welcome started in Oxford 20 years ago.

We run:
Detainee support and visiting service for Campsfield House
Adult and family advice service
Education and Employment support
Syrian resettlement programme
Welcome centre, food bank and recycled bikes
And the youth service.
Asylum welcome Youth service:

- Weekly ‘Venda’ youth club and holiday activities
- 1:1 support and advice for young people (up to 25)
- We work with over 100 young people each year
What works well?

• Having a space initially that is just for UASCs
• Developing relationship with the young people through activities and the youth club so that they can access support later if needed.
• Using Venda as an access point for other activities/support in Oxford – Remix at Pegasus, Film Oxford, Ark T, NCS, Refugee support network.
• Working in partnership with others.
What’s special about the service?

- Independent advice/signposting and referrals on a range of issues
- OISC accredited immigration/asylum advice at level 2
- Support up to age of 25
- Support regardless of status
- Casework to help ARE young people with further submissions
- Destitution support and access to foodbank for failed asylum seeking UASCs
What challenges do we see?

- Age assessments and young people struggling with dispersal.
- Huge stress and worry caused by long delays in the asylum system.
- Need to access additional legal advice at crucial moments in young people’s cases.
- Young people who are ARE loosing support after turning 18.
- Isolation and disenfranchisement for those without status.
What successes do we see?

- Continuing work/relationship with young people who are outside of the system.
- Working with other agencies to provide comprehensive support.
- Support at crucial points leading to young people’s cases being successful.
- Young people finally gaining status many years after arrival as UASCs.
Thank you

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