| `Good Practice General information | |
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| Title | **Conversation Club** |
| Country,  (region and municipality of implementation) | United Kingdom |
| Organisation | Sheffield refugee friendship group and STAR (Student Action for Refugees) and the newly established Drop in Centre (Sheffield Asylum Team) |
| Timeframe  (start date, end date or ongoing) | Spring 2002 – to present |
| Level of implementation (local/regional/national/transnational/other) | Every Wednesday at Victoria Hall  Every Friday at Central United Reform Church |
| Webpage or other online info (link) | <http://www.conversationclub.org.uk> |
| Contact Details | Tel: 07807 584657  (they have no office in Sheffield) |
| Brief description (max 500 characters) | Conversation Club is a charity. Offers English practice and some basic English teaching together with quite a lot of orientation and cultural input plus fun, welcome and friendship.  To their volunteers, it provides an opportunity to get to know people from around the world, to develop understanding and empathy with refugee issues, and to make a positive contribution. |

| Good Practice Analytical description | |
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| Summary:  -main objectives  -challenge and goals  -activities  (max 1000 characters) | Conversation Club’s purpose is primarily to generate conversation and so, incidentally, help people to improve their English. However, they had considered for some time that a logical extension of this, was to run informal English classes as well.  And so, many refugees and asylum seekers are either not eligible for publicly funded classes or find the idea of going to college rather frightening. For those reasons, CC is trying to provide a safe environment for asylum seekers and refugees for a few hours each week.  How? Every Wednesday and Friday, at Victoria Hall and Central United Reform Church, about 5 or 6 volunteers are sitting down with about 5 or 6 refugees to talk and play games, drink tea and get to know each other.   * There was no particular brief and training.   Conversation Club explored a variety of approaches to help language practice and confidence building and gives new arrivals a chance to find out about the city and what it could offer them.  The activities are spreading into the whole of the Sheffield community:   1. Walks into the Peak District 2. Local schools invite CC’s members to talk to their students. 3. Encourage the many skills of their members by producing newsletters, film discussions, forming links with other community groups. 4. Broaden horizons by organizing cultural outings (ex. Museums, films, other cities, archeology sites, exhibitions) |
| Problems which aims to tackle (max 1000 characters) | The focus is on the interaction between refugees and local people via friendly, informal, face – to - face conversation, having no particular structure. It also aims to develop understanding and empathy among refugees and native people as to create connections and networks of acceptance. |
| Target groups (max 500 characters)  -short description of target population  -expected coverage of the programme in terms of the number of persons reached | The Centers provide their services to the following groups of people:   * Refugees/Asylum Seekers (there are “women only” sessions) * People that want to be volunteers |
| Elements of innovation  (max 500 characters) OPTIONAL | The informal type of learning provides the necessary freedom to the service users to interact and learn under no pressure. Participants are trying to improve their English language skills, build confidence and talk about their host city and what it could offer them. |
| Results achieved  (max 1000 characters) | The Conversation Club has become so popular, that they extended a 2nd session run every Friday afternoon, and later they made women only sessions, every Thursday.  After this notability, they extended their activities to weekend walks, museum visits, football and cinema visits  From Annual – Report (2016), the electronic data base (which was set up in 2011), resulted to a total of 314 people who had registered. |
| How could this intervention be improved  (max 500 characters) |  |

| GP transferability | |
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| Prerequisites for the adoption / implementation of GP  (what are the specific elements or conditions that must be present to allow the implementation of the GP; Would this action work well in another European context? What local / national conditions should be met to allow the transfer?) (max 700 characters) | The specific action is fully transferable to other countries. |
| Resources needed  (Please specify the amount of funding/financial resources used and/or the human resources required to set up and to run the practice)  (max 500 characters) | For the setup of such services, the funding should include:   1. cost of accommodation 2. cost of transportation 3. staff salaries   d)advertisement/publicity |

Ο σκοπός του Conversation Club-CC είναι κυρίως να δημιουργήσει συνομιλίες και, συνεπώς, βοηθά τους ανθρώπους να βελτιώσουν τα αγγλικά τους. Ωστόσο, εδώ και αρκετό καιρό σκέφτονται την επέκταση αυτού του στόχου με τη διεξαγωγή άτυπων τάξεων αγγλικών.

Πολλοί πρόσφυγες και αιτούντες άσυλο είτε δεν είναι επιλέξιμοι για δημόσια χρηματοδοτούμενα μαθήματα είτε βρίσκουν την ιδέα να πηγαίνουν στο κολέγιο αρκετά τρομακτικό. Για τους λόγους αυτούς, το CC προσπαθεί να προσφέρει ένα ασφαλές περιβάλλον για τους αιτούντες άσυλο και τους πρόσφυγες για μερικές ώρες κάθε εβδομάδα.