

#kirkleeswelcomes

Working together to support and celebrate migration

Giving back!



Basema originally came to our training to be a Welcome Mentor about a year ago, whilst she loved the training and was very keen to be a Welcome Mentor, she felt that she needed to be more confident with her spoken English and so we referred her to This Way for English so that she could be assessed and start classes. She attended College and then moved on to our Online Zoom ESOL sessions throughout Covid. I kept in regular contact with her and could see that every month her English was really improving. I made sure to tell her this every time I spoke with her to boost her confidence. Basema has all of the qualities that a Welcome Mentor needs, she has lived experience of being new to Kirklees with little English, she is caring, empathetic and really keen to support others who are struggling to integrate.

I invited Basema to Zoom sessions regarding Covid, the Vaccine as well as Welcome Mentor activity to build on her confidence even further and a couple of months ago suggested her doing some phone mentor work with a family who just needed a friend to chat with them in Arabic and make them feel welcome. Basema called the family and she was an absolute natural, she relayed the conversation back to me in beautifully spoken English and was excited that she had been able to help. Once she had built her confidence with this family I suggested that we get her a DBS certificate for when she was ready to get out and about to support families – the minute it arrived she called me to say that she wanted to take on more and so I matched her to a family who really needed help registering in person with a GP. She met the family and took them to the Whitehouse to register and she also helped them to book an appointment whilst they were there.

Basema came to Huddersfield as part of the Resettlement programme, she has faced many challenges and so really understands how others are feeling, I think that her wanting to use her experiences to help others is just incredible, we are so lucky to have her not only as a part of our team but also as a part of the local community in Huddersfield.

Basema said:

“I want to help and support people who have been in a similar situation to me as I know how happy I felt when I found people wanting to help me in Kirklees and I wanted others to feel that happiness. I love seeing people smile and even the small things help them which makes me very happy. I have gained knowledge and really learnt things from being in ESOL and from being a Welcome Mentor, you have taught me a lot and I give thanks to you”