

Case Study – Eurosoma Cultural Centre

Amount Granted: £ 4,000 (Grassroots Birmingham – Date Completed: February 2010)

The project: The road to integration



Eurosoma Cultural Centre are a refugee community organisation who provides support and services to newly arrived refugees in Birmingham. We deliver programmes of integration to promote family support, adult education, youth activities and develop mutual understandings. Our research has found that 50% of Somali parents and young people are out of work, education or training. This has created an increased possibility of developing a riskier lifestyle and engaging in criminal activity amongst Somali's in inner city Birmingham.

Total number of people benefiting from this project: 1075 (425 men & 650 women)

Area of Benefit: Inner City Birmingham

Why was the project needed?

Our programmes encourage young people to take responsibility for their actions. Last year we supported 125 young people and 85 parents, 80% of those moved on to work, education or training. This project tackled the issues and isolation faced by Horn of African communities in inner city Birmingham whose first language is not English. We additionally addressed the issues that come with living in an economically deprived area of Birmingham with a high proportion of Horn of African and ethnic minority residents.

The difference the project has made:

The project was intended to integrate the beneficiaries into the community and to help them live full, active and happy lives while maintaining their independence. Eurosoma has estimated that:

- ⊙ Around 700 isolated people improved their community relationships by the end of the project
- ⊙ 350 people improved their skills by the end of the project
- ⊙ 25 volunteers gained improved experience of employment and increased their capacity



Quote:

"This project has brought members of our local, culturally diverse host communities together with the Horn of African community living in Birmingham, through a series of arts, sports and cultural activities targeting young people. By sharing creative activities and personal stories, Eurosoma have successfully broken down barriers, fears and prejudice through mutual understandings, encouraging new friendships, respect and trust."

(Mr. H. Ali)

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