



# Newsletter

MARCH 2024



## Welcome to IASK's Inaugural Newsletter of the Year!

IASK welcomes you to its first newsletter of the year. We are excited to kick off the year as IASK, formerly known as DASH, as we embark on a new chapter of our journey. This year at IASK, we have a plethora of exciting new projects and initiatives in development, along with participation in some thrilling external events. We are eagerly looking forward to another year of making a positive impact, assisting individuals seeking asylum and refugees to build safe and fulfilling lives. Join us as we delve into the latest updates and stories from the heart of our mission.

“  
*I was lost when I came to Huddersfield but thank you to IASK for their help and support. I am really grateful for all of your help and support.*  
”  
-Client testimonial

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# Introducing IASK: Empowering Lives, Embracing Change

We are IASK. At the end of 2023, DASH transformed into IASK (Immigration and Asylum Support Kirklees). This change isn't just about a new name—it heralds a host of exciting developments that are currently in motion. Join us as we embark on this new chapter, dedicated to empowering lives and embracing change within our community.

## Vision

Refugees and people seeking asylum in Kirklees will live safe and fulfilling lives supported by IASK.

## Mission

We will work with people seeking asylum and refugees in Kirklees to understand the complex asylum and immigration system and support with casework and welfare needs.

## Values

We will place our clients at the centre of everything we do. We will value lived experience and embed it within our organisation.

## Ambition

- To respond & adapt to the constantly changing legal landscape through flexibility and versatility.
- To provide a strong and fulfilling volunteer programme to delivering far reaching services.
- To be the preferred partner in Kirklees for people seeking asylum and refugees.
- To give our clients relevant and timely support.

## Our Volunteers

Our volunteers are essential to our organization's success in serving the local asylum seeker and refugee community. As we expand our projects this year, IASK is committed to enhancing our volunteer program. Join us in celebrating the invaluable contributions of these dedicated individuals who are integral to our mission.

*I would like to thank you very much for the wonderful opportunity you have given me to contribute as a volunteer. Your warm welcome and support have helped me to develop myself and my talents. I am grateful for this valuable experience and look forward to achieving even more together.*

*-Volunteer feedback*

## Focus of the year 2024

This year we plan to focus on improving the quality of our existing services while also exploring new ways to engage with communities. We plan to expand our outreach efforts and our volunteer base.

- Focus on improving our existing services
- Mitigate vulnerabilities that can be faced throughout the asylum journey
- Review and assess the effectiveness of information and support being provided
- Expand our legal programmes and services
- Develop our legal services to OISC L2 in immigration
- Provide training workshops to clients so that they understand the asylum system and their rights
- Provide training to external organisations who deal with people seeking asylum and refugees
- Develop new training programmes for our volunteers
- Help with housing applications under Universal Credit
- Strategies to increase social media presence and fundraise through events
- Provide additional support for refugees with mental health issues

### 2023 Success!

**2,525** Welfare services provided

**1,327** Legal services provided

**189** Volunteers



# Welcoming All: Join Us at Our Welcome Clubs!

## Wednesday Welcome Club

Welcome to our Wednesday Welcome Club update! Since December 6th, 2023, we've been hosting our gatherings every Wednesday at Hudawi Centre, Great Northern Street, Huddersfield, HD1 6BG. As we enter the new year, we're busy planning engaging activities for our clients during their visits. Join us at Hudawi Centre Main Hall every Wednesday from 1 pm to 4 pm for a vibrant community experience!



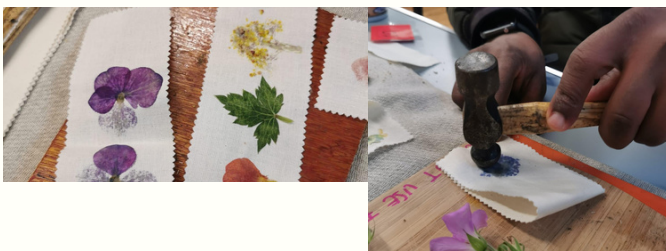
## Connecting lives one SIM Card at a Time

Incredibly grateful to Vodafone for providing SIM Cards to our clients, these connections are lifelines for clients, keeping them connected with loved ones.

**“ I appreciate you giving me the phone and SIM card because I was having trouble getting in touch with my family.. ”**

**-Client testimonial**

## Creative Collaboration: Lawrence Batley Theatre Joins Growing Works!



Clients delight in a variety of origami, wire works, and outdoor creative tasks each week, thanks to the partnership between Lawrence Batley Theatre and Growing Works.

## Nourishing Community: 70-100 Hot Meals Served Weekly!

Our kitchen team is hard at work, serving between 70-100 delicious hot meals at each Thursday Welcome Club.



## CLEAR Mental Health Training

We had a mental health training this month for our volunteers to ensure that they are equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to provide support to individuals who may be struggling with their mental health.

During the training, our volunteers learned about the signs and symptoms of common mental health disorders, such as anxiety and depression, as well as how to effectively communicate with and support those who may be experiencing these issues.

We also discussed the importance of self-care and setting boundaries when providing support to others.



# IASK Outreach: Connecting Communities, Building Bridges

## Volunteers get Hands on with Local Conservation Work!



Welcome mentors joined National Trust rangers to plant trees on Pule Hill slopes, a new experience for many. Equipped in borrowed all-weather gear, they planted 150 saplings of Oak, Rowan, Hazel, and Birch. This effort is part of a plan to add 65,000 trees around Marsden Moor through the Landscapes for Water program with Yorkshire Water.

## Welcome Mentors Participate in International Scouts Master Challenge Hosted by New Horizon Scouts

Three of our exceptional volunteers recently shared their culinary expertise, bringing the rich flavors of the world to a group of young Scouts. It was an unforgettable evening filled with delectable food and joyful memories for everyone involved.



## Welcome Walks 2024

Last year's Welcome Walks were a tremendous hit, cherished by our clients. This year, we're bringing back Welcome Walks with even more style and flair!



*To the organisers and the Welcome Walk leaders, I more than appreciate the welcome you gave me when I was introduced to you here in Huddersfield. It is the first time I experienced an open friendly, caring, helpful with interesting group of people. Thank you for being there for me.*

*-Client testimonial*





# IASK News Bulletin

## Democracy Project

IASK teams up with Same Skies for "Voice," a project amplifying asylum seekers' and refugees' voices in the Spring 2024 West Yorkshire Mayor election. Through one-on-one conversations and recordings with IASK clients and volunteers, led by Suhaila Gayathry and Mike Prior, the project aims to counter negative media narratives. Prior states, "Voice can counter negative publicity."

## Success Story

Exciting news! Our volunteer interpreter and trustee, Jihad, has secured a position with Kirklees Language Service. Congratulations! Jihad expresses his thanks: "I would like to thank IASK for the experience and support."

## New Project Alert

Refugee  
Move On  
Project

In April, we are excited to announce the launch of the Refugee Move On Project! Our aim is to address the homeless crisis and provide support for refugees following their positive decision.

## Asylum Withdrawal

Facing a withdrawn asylum claim can be daunting. It means no refugee status, no legal protection from removal, and losing vital support. Why do claims get withdrawn? Missing Home Office contact or reporting events. But there's hope: IASK recently fought an Implicit withdrawal case, getting it reinstated with evidence and legal arguments. We're here to help!

## Trustee Vacancy

Seeking trustees, especially with immigration law expertise, but all are welcome. Please contact Jane Fowden at [jane.f@i-ask.co.uk](mailto:jane.f@i-ask.co.uk) for more information or to apply with your CV. All applications kept confidential.





# Thank You

Thank you for your unwavering support, which enables us to continue our vital work supporting individuals seeking asylum and refugees in Kirklees. As we embark on the journey that 2024 holds, We are thrilled to have you with us every step of the way. Here's to a year filled with progress, compassion, and positive change!

## Staff roles

Welcome to the team  
Najmeh and Morgan!



**Suhaila Gayathry**  
Operations Manager



**Jane Fowden**  
Funding and Strategy  
Manager



**Salina Selvi**  
OISC and IAAS  
Accredited Legal  
Manager



**Tsion Fisseha**  
Asylum Caseworker



**Lailuma Rehman**  
Welcome Mentor  
Coordinator



**Najmeh Shabani**  
Administrative Support  
Worker



**Morgan Jones**  
Administrative Support  
Worker

## Welcome Club

### Wednesday

1PM - 4PM

Hudawi Centre, Great  
Northern Street,  
Huddersfield, HD1 6BG

### Thursday

1PM - 4PM

Quaker Meeting  
House, Church Street,  
Paddock, HD1 4TR

## Contact us



**Contact**  
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**Website**  
i-ask.co.uk



**E-mail**  
info@i-ask.co.uk



**Address**  
Quaker Meeting House,  
Paddock, Huddersfield,  
HD1 4TR

## Follow us



Be sure to stay tuned  
for exciting  
announcements  
about upcoming  
events!

