

The Edith M Ellis 1985 Charitable Trust

Students and Refugees Together (START)

#FPJYRCJ3H2 submitted on 15 August 2022

1.1 Please summarise what you are seeking from us

We are currently working to develop the Refugee Service User Group's remit so that our priorities are confirmed through the refugee lived experience, to enable them to network and be ambassadors on START's behalf. Refugee volunteers who are members of the Service User Group benefit from the volunteer training and supervision that they receive, which in turn contributes to their skills and, in many cases, to their prospects for gainful employment longer term.

1.2 Tell us more about your project, the impact it will have on those it aims to help, and why you consider the proposed approach to be innovative

We regard refugees as potentially high contributors 'in transition', and START provides a range of ways for people both to access and to participate in services to create lasting and sustainable change. Every refugee is allocated a named support worker who assists with, for example, helping them at a critical moment to access their rights to benefits, secure stable accommodation and, eventually, to gain employment. By helping them to make positive choices we facilitate their transition from people in need to self-reliant contributors to their local communities.

To each individual refugee or asylum seeker arriving/referred to START through partner agencies we offer an in-depth holistic support package enabling them to engage at all levels; through casework, volunteering, employment, and a community and family activity programme. The pathway's success relies on an individual's relative stability in terms of housing and benefits and time, and also on their English language skills needed to engage in activities and training; START offers help in all of these areas.

There were 48,540 asylum applications (relating to 56,495 people) in the UK in 2021. This is 63% more than the previous year and the highest number for almost two decades.

<http://www.gov.uk>

During the pandemic refugees needed increased 'individual' support in order for them to make sense of the restrictions, especially as lockdown eased. The third lockdown period and the vaccine programme produced a lot of changing and confusing information and regulations. Structured remote assistance took longer and START needed extra capacity to provide this. The pandemic impacted hugely on the refugee communities; it 'unsettled' people who were established in employment and housing, bringing them back to START for additional support.

Although there are always new refugees and asylum seekers arriving in Plymouth needing help, alarmingly we have observed recently that the 'settled' refugees are presenting with complex social issues. Impending eviction, costs of living increases and other pressures are causing families living in Plymouth for a few years to find themselves in crisis once again. For example, a buoyant market has led to landlords selling their properties - 12 of our refugee families have been served notice to quit. PTSD and mental illness are now starting to manifest and we are often required to signpost people to more specialist services as a result.

Our learning is that the crossover periods of any change are particularly stressful for these communities and refugees need increasingly more support in order for them to make sense of the changing world we live in. Over the past year we have supported a large number of refugees on an individual level, all of

whom were not previously in receipt of a 'named-caseworker' service from START. The current demographic of refugees at START is 80% single men and 20% families; they originate from countries such as Iran, Eritrea, Syria, Sudan, and Afghanistan.

As refugees become more settled and able to manage their lives more easily it is impressive how many give back generously in a variety of roles to help new arrivals and organisations that support them. Much of START's work is richly enhanced by both their practical contributions and their role as a conduit to understanding refugee priorities and opinions. Refugees who are members of the Service User Group benefit from volunteer training and supervision, which contributes to increasing their skills and, in many cases, to their prospects for gainful employment. The subject of this application is the Refugees Service User Group and a grant from The Edith Maud Ellis 1985 Charitable Trust would enable us to provide more training and opportunities for refugees to learn new skills and contribute to this group.

1.3 Which grant-giving categories does your project fulfil?

E - Work with forced migrants, including internally displaced people

1.3e Work with forced migrants, including internally displaced people

Refugees are one of the most vulnerable groups of people; they face numerous inequalities and until granted asylum they have no choice about anything, including where they may end up. Crisis masks resilience and START aims to remove barriers for refugees 'in transition' by offering responsive assistance so that they may live independently and productively as members of society.

1.4 Which country is the project based in?

United Kingdom (GB)

1.5 Will the project continue after initial funding has ended?

Yes

1.5b Please give details of how you plan to continue after initial funding has ended

We aim to sustain the delivery of our support services for refugees in the longer term; to maintain a flexible and strategic approach; to consult with our Service User group and the wider refugee community; and to further develop our services, thus enabling the charity to adapt and thrive. An active and strategic fundraising programme will help us to sustain the project in the longer term.

1.6 How will the project be monitored and evaluated?

START is able to deliver on its mission because the 'strengths approach' is embedded as our core philosophy and guiding principle, ensuring that our services are always service user led. We monitor service delivery through systematic data collection relating to engagement and satisfaction, using both quantitative and qualitative methods, gathered through informal interviews and consultation, and through the compilation of case studies. Additionally, periodic surveys are augmented by research students' work into wellbeing and resilience.

2.1 Expenditure

EXPENDITURE ITEM	AMOUNT	NOTES
Refugee volunteer training	£3,500	
Refugee volunteer expenses	£800	Travel and subsistence
Administration	£1,500	
DBS checks	£200	

TOTALS	£6,000	
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2.2 Income

INCOME SOURCE	TARGET AMOUNT	AMOUNT RAISED	NOTES
Grants from Trust and Foundations (this application)	£3,000	£0	Grant application to The Edith Maud Ellis 1985 Charitable Trust
Grants from Trusts and Foundations (secured)	£3,000	£3,000	Grant from Garfield Weston Foundation
TOTALS	£6,000	£3,000	

2.3 What is the total amount (in £ sterling) your organisation is requesting from The Edith M Ellis Trust?

£3,000

2.4 Has your organisation made an application to The Edith M Ellis Trust before?

Yes

2.4b Please provide the date of the previous application

04.12.2017

2.4c Was this previous application successful?

Yes

2.4d How much did you receive?

£750

2.4e When did you receive the grant?

28.12.2018

2.5 Please state your organisation's annual turnover (in £ sterling)

£339,781

2.6 Do you wish to upload your audited accounts or financial statement?

No

2.7 Please tell us where payment should be made if your application is successful

Students and Refugees Together (START)
33859360
770905

3.1 Your name

Isaac Kelly

3.2 Your contact telephone number

07841 370590

3.3 Your position within the organisation

Co-Manager and Administrator

3.4 Your email address

IKelly@startsw.co.uk

3.5 Organisation name

Students and Refugees Together (START)

3.6 Please state the status of your organisation

UK charity

3.7 Please summarise what your organisation does

START works with refugees in Plymouth who are forcibly dispersed through the immigration process and have been granted leave to remain in the UK. We offer holistic support on a one-to-one 'casework' basis; assistance and advocacy to help refugees settle within new communities; an activity programme for refugee families to promote friendships, reduce social isolation, encourage healthy living and create volunteering opportunities; education opportunities to students on placement, contributing to their personal and professional development.

3.8 UK correspondence address for organisation

Unit 4 HQ Building
237 Union Street
Plymouth
PL1 3HQ

3.9 UK telephone number

07841 985252

3.10 UK charity number (if applicable)

1108113

3.11 Year established

2005

3.12 Website (if applicable)

<http://www.startsw.co.uk>

3.13 Social media accounts (if applicable)

<https://en-gb.facebook.com/StartPlymouth/>

4.1 How did you hear about The Edith M Ellis Trust?

Previous application to The Edith M Ellis Trust