

MigRefHealth

Exploring how community assets can improve the health of migrant populations



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What is the MigRefHealth project?

"Co-creating asset and place-based approaches to tackling refugee and migrant health exclusion" is a 3-year UKRI and Arts and Humanities Research Council funded project, 2024-2027.

It is collaboration between academics, community partners and stakeholders from a wide range of backgrounds including health and social care, policy, research, community development, statutory and voluntary sectors.

It aims to understand the experiences of refugees, asylum seekers and migrant communities as they use community assets, to support their health and wellbeing; with the intent of co-designing replicable good practice models.

How patient and public contributors were involved in the project:

The project has co-production, community voice and stakeholder engagement built into its design:

- The Leadership Team has an equal number of academics and community partners, many with migration histories. It is supported by an expert Advisory Board including clinicians, specialists in nutrition, public health, policy and housing.
- The 3 regional Research Teams in East of England, North and South London are made up of academics, community organisations, project partners and trained community co-researchers (CCRs).
- Community Forums (CF) for people with lived experience (PWLE) of migration/the asylum system have been set up in each field site as safe and supportive places for participation.
- The CFs use participatory and creative methods as well as focus groups/interviews to engage people with diverse abilities and languages in topic related activities which address the complex social issue of post migration health. All sessions are supported by CCRs/interpreters.

"I really appreciate the opportunity to join this event. ... I think it's like a big community getting together, with different cultures, and with different backgrounds... Thank you so much."
Hong Konger male, Colchester

A "community asset" is a service, activity or place that is an integral part of community life. It can include advice and information services, libraries, community groups, religious organisations, parks & open spaces, food banks, leisure centres etc.



The involvement of community partners (CPs), stakeholders, CCRs and PWLE have:

- Increased the project's impact by promoting it through their local networks
- Enabled the recruitment of over 600 PWLE
- Reinforced good research practices which encourage participation by identifying familiar local venues/hosting events, translation by CCRs and the provision of /signposting to additional support identified by participants.

Wider learning from the project includes team power dynamics, methodological and resource issues raised from conducting multi-partner, multi-site, multi-lingual and multiple methods events.



For more information contact

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