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**Connecting Opportunities**

Connecting Opportunities is a new project to increase integration in Leeds City Region. It supports the most socially excluded new migrants to tackle the complex barriers they face in integrating in their local areas, increasing their employability, or finding work.

10 organizations across Leeds city region are working together with other organizations to offer tailored support, cultural orientation, English language classes and other training options for participants. Connecting Opportunities is also offering the chance for local people to be volunteers, mentors and befrienders, and for employers to provide work placements to help people get a foothold in the job market.

**We need volunteer befrienders and mentors to support new refugees and migrants connect locally and integrate.**

**You will help them to;**

* Gain confidence in using their conversational English language with someone who will not judge them.
* Feel supported in accessing education and employment by helping with issues such as paperwork.
* Gain an in-depth understanding of the British culture through spending time together.
* Have a voice by advocating for them if needed.

T**hrough being a befriender and mentor you will;**

* Develop new skills and gain experience.
* Develop cultural awareness.
* Become knowledgeable about new communities in your area and more able to challenge prejudice.
* Be making a difference to someone's life.

**To volunteer contact the manager befriending & mentoring (Connecting Opportunities) Leeds Asylum Seekers Support Network** t: 01133731759 mobile 07927115574, email:fidelis@lassn.org.uk. Visit our website [www.lassn.org.uk](http://www.lassn.org.uk) and complete online application