



R E P

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the second edition of the Resettlement Employability Programme (REP) Team newsletter!

Over the past few months, we've continued supporting our clients through one-to-one appointments, helping them find employment, access training and courses, and overcome the challenges they face. We've also delivered workshops, attended community events, strengthened partnerships, including meeting with the **Eastbourne MP's team**, to discuss issues affecting our clients, and celebrated the progress and achievements of those we support. We hope you enjoy this update on our work.



**REP Team with Eastbourne PA
on behalf of Josh Babarinde MP**

Supporting Diverse Communities

Over the past quarter, the REP Team has supported people from a wide range of backgrounds across East Sussex, including individuals from Afghanistan, Albania, Bangladesh, Belgium, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Iran, Iraq, Côte d'Ivoire, Jordan, Kenya, Mauritius, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Russia, Senegal, Sudan, Syria, and Ukraine. This diversity reflects our commitment to providing tailored employability and integration support to refugees and migrants from many different communities as they build new lives in the UK.

Building a New Future

One Of the Success Story:

When "Sheikh" (name changed) arrived in the UK after fleeing Afghanistan, he and his family faced the challenges of rebuilding their lives. The REP Team supported them with employment, training, education, and access to local services. Through volunteering, CV workshops, interview coaching, and tailored support, Sheikh secured permanent employment. His wife completed her training and has since started her own hair and beauty business, while their children are thriving at school.



**Refugee week event,
Hastings Museum**

REP Project Q2 2026 Highlights

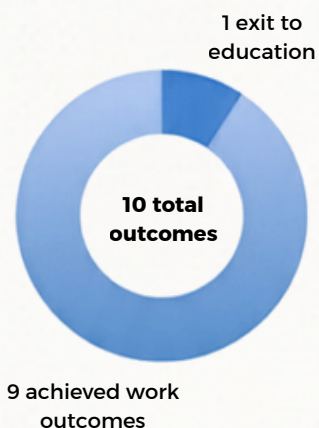


Enrollments

- 18 total referrals across 4 councils



Outcomes



Council Breakdown



Top Employment Sectors



Health



Retail



Visitor
Economy



Public
Sector

**Hastings BC leads with broadest
employment goals - Retail, Health,
and Visitor Economy strongest**

- In the last 6 Months Hastings Borough Council had the highest number of client employment placements 19, with particularly strong demand in Health (7), Retail (6), and Visitor & Tourism (6).
- Eastbourne Borough Council follows with 17 placements, led by Health (5) and Visitor & Tourism (5), with additional activity in Other (4) and Retail (3).
- Lewes District Council shows a balanced spread across 1 Creative, 1 Retail, and 1 Other sectors o
- Rother District Council has lower overall demand, concentrated in (2)Health and (1)Other.
- Wealden District Council and Other Local Authority have comparatively few goals recorded during the reporting period.

we are continuing to work at supporting clients living in Wealden, Rother, Lewes, Bexhill, and have had drop ins from Brighton, London and Uckfield.

Recent Client Success Story

After arriving through the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, our client came to us with no idea of what her future was going to be in the UK, with more questions than answers. She had previously worked in Ukraine as a dental nurse and wanted to work in the UK. We started the process by having an initial assessment to determine the barriers that prevented her from working in the UK. Her qualifications from Ukraine were not accredited in the UK and she would have to resit professional exams to register as a UK Nurse. Our approach was to motivate her and at the same time manage our clients expectations as her success was important to both of us. We first advised her to start by working as a trainee in a dental practice thereby ensuring the career path was secured. Whilst doing this we encouraged her to begin studying for a nursing certification and helped her in applying to the Dental Nursing college in London. She could not pay the fee which was nearly £2000, so we liaised with the Migration Manager who managed to secure a loan for her from HBC. Her study took 9 months , we then helped her to apply for role as a Trainee Dental Nurse at a respectable Dental Practice in Eastbourne during her study period. Our Client successfully completed a CACHE Level 3 Diploma in Dental Nursing. The Nursing course was paid for by Hastings Borough Council with support from the Migrant Manager. Alongside gaining valuable clinical experience, she continues to develop her career while exploring future opportunities in healthcare. She has now secured a permanent Dental Nursing position. She is now contributing to the UK and East Sussex community as an immigrant. This shows how a coordinated targeted approach and partnership working lead to a change that has now transformed the life of an individual, a refugee who when they came to the UK had no hope or plan how their life was going to turn out.

"The REP Team believed in my potential and gave me the confidence, support and opportunities to build a new future"

"Thanks to the support of the Refugee Employability Project, and Hastings Borough Council. I gained a new qualification, secured employment, and started building a future for myself and my family in the UK. I will be forever grateful."

Recent events & Networking

The REP Team has been busy networking and attending a range of events across East Sussex, building new partnerships and creating opportunities for the clients we support.

Ukrainian Vyshyvanka day, Eastbourne 19th May
MP for Eastbourne meeting, Eastbourne, 29th May
Chamber of Commerce meeting 2nd June
Refugee Employment Summit, London 17th June
Sanctuary immigrant event, Eastbourne 19th June
Refugee week event, Hastings Museum 21st June
Costa Care CEO 29th June

Employee Rights and Modern Day Slavery Workshop in Eastbourne



The REP project delivered an **Employee Rights and Modern Day Slavery Workshop** in Eastbourne, which was very well received. The workshop was planned as a result of the frequent lack of information that the clients have regarding their rights at places of work. There have been incidents of abuse of employee rights, exploitation, and modern day slavery so it was important to empower the attendees on their rights. We are working with the team at the Sanctuary in Eastbourne and the Local MPs office at the moment to stop this happening. The workshop attracted a good level of attendance especially from care workers on Sponsorships who have been mostly affected by violations of employment rights. All the participants expressed high levels of satisfaction with the valuable new information and practical guidance they gained during the session. We will continue supporting those in need with advice as regards these matters.

Raising Our Clients' Voices

REP Team raised concerns about the rights of care workers in the UK on Skilled Worker Visas with Eastbourne MP Josh Babarinde OBE MP. Following our meeting, he wrote to the Home Secretary highlighting the financial hardship many care workers face due to reduced working hours. In his letter, he called for stronger protections, fairer working conditions, and greater flexibility for workers seeking a new sponsor.