



Frontline Exchange 2025: Empowering young asylum seekers and refugees

About the session

In this session, we were joined by Alexandra, from Coventry's Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children's Service, to explore how you can empower young asylum seekers and refugees in your work.

She was joined by a group of young people with lived experience, as they all shared their advice for supporting unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and young people, and how to give them the best chance to thrive.

Scroll through for key learnings from the session 

Expand your knowledge

Take up training opportunities to learn more about best practice for supporting young asylum seekers and refugees.

"Young people have to go through the asylum process. This is a long process. 95% of young people come from countries that are not deemed safe. These young people are trying to integrate but they still have the worry of potentially not being granted asylum" - **Alexandra**



Building relationships is key

Be genuine and authentic in building relationships. Prioritise spending time with the young people, get to know them and find out more about their culture.

For example: In Coventry the team hold cultural exchanges, residential and celebrate holidays such as Eid with their young people.

"I feel like I have my family again - social workers are always there for me."

Young person with lived experience

Collaborate with other organisations

Don't work in isolation. There are loads of great resources available!

Reach out to nearby local authorities who may have more resources or bigger teams working with young asylum seekers and refugees. Use resources from charities such as the British Red Cross.

Make sure young people have access to different resources. For example: In Coventry young people can get a West Midlands bus pass - important to build networks – and a free gym membership to support their mental health.



Think outside the box

Get creative in your work with young asylum seekers and refugees.

For example: Coventry have started to look at how AI could support with translation for young people who don't speak English. Could this be a good option to get rid of bias? Could this be a quicker and more efficient way to communicate with young people in the future?

"Find out what activities the young person likes. Ask them how they feel. Give them options"

Young person with lived experience

Resources

Young Minds: Supporting refugee and asylum seeking children

Refugee Council: children and young people

The Children's Society: Young refugees and migrants

