

Introduction

This latest version of our directory, the sixth update since its launch in 2022, contains details of the many organisations and agencies, from all sectors, that offer support services for people from Black, Asian and Ethnically Diverse communities in Devon.

We hope that the information helps people from different cultural backgrounds living and/or working in Devon – including migrant workers, asylum seekers, refugees and students – to find the local support that they need.

The directory is also intended to reach professionals, service providers and other partners looking to improve their engagement with different cultural communities or seeking specialist advice and guidance.

We recognise that this directory is not exhaustive and that it needs to be updated on a regular basis. If you have any suggestions for additions and/or changes then please get in touch with our Engagement and ESOL team: ESOL@devon.gov.uk

Migration and Resettlement Team
Devon County Council



Migration &
Resettlement

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Section 1: Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations



Afghan Community Devon CIC (ACD)

ACD was founded in July 2020 and became a CIC in 2022. Our aim is to strengthen connections among Afghan families locally and across the UK, fostering a sense of stability and belonging. We promote cultural exchange and understanding, benefiting both the Afghan community and the wider public. Activities help the Afghan community maintain their sense of identity, whilst encouraging wider community acceptance and unity at the same time.

Current and proposed activities include:

- Women's social group
- Community Eid and Nowrooz celebrations
- Farsi and Pashto literacy classes to address disrupted education, especially for women
- Sports such as swimming, football, and volleyball
- Cultural events featuring Afghan cooking, needlework, and carpet-making

ACD also partners with **Diverse Devon Together**, sharing venues and activities to further cultural unity.

Email: NSaifi@btinternet.com

Phone: 07722 199115 (Nasrullah Saifi) | 07903 099109 (Agha Shreen) | 07462 933393 (Dawood Yawery)



Afghan Community Exeter CIC (ACE)

Afghan Community Exeter CIC is a dedicated organisation committed to celebrating Afghan culture and supporting the Afghan community in Exeter. Our mission is to foster unity and enrich the lives of Afghan residents through various initiatives. We organise cultural festivals, provide education classes, and offer recreational activities to promote cultural awareness and integration. Our focus is on creating a supporting environment where Afghans can thrive, share their heritage, and receive the assistance they need. By working together, we aim to build a vibrant community that benefits all its members and preserves the rich traditions of Afghanistan.

Email: afghance@icloud.com | afghancic@gmail.com

Phone: 07886407279 | 07802577800

Address: 152 Lancelot Road, Exeter EX4 9BX



Black South West Network (BSWN)



A black-led racial justice organisation based in Bristol that supports the development of dynamic, independent, and strong black and minoritised communities, businesses, and organisations to flourish whilst challenging systemic barriers. We drive racial equity in the UK society's dimensions of research, policy, innovation, socio-economics, and health through a collective and meaningful community-led approach.

Website: <https://www.blacksouthwestnetwork.org/>
Address: The Coach House, 2 Upper York Street, St Paul's Bristol BS2 8QN
Email: admin@bswn.org.uk
Phone: 07495 329990



Bulgarian Society of Devon



The Bulgarian Society was started in March 2012 to provide Bulgarians living in Devon with opportunities to support each other, to share experiences, to celebrate Bulgarian culture and to share information about upcoming events in the community. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/bulgarians.devon/>



Chinese Community Wellbeing Society



Founded in 1989: Chinese Community Wellbeing Society (formerly Bristol and Avon Chinese Women's Group. Name changed in 2021)

Mission: Support the health and wellbeing of the Chinese-speaking community across the Southwest of England.

Chinese Lantern Helpline Service: provides information and support in English, Cantonese, and Mandarin to community service users. Service providers can also contact the helpline if they are supporting members of the Chinese-speaking community.

Partnerships with service providers: We work closely with service providers to provide information and support to our community. We collaborate to deliver information workshops, enabling service providers to gain access into the Chinese-speaking community in the Southwest.

Helpline: 0808 802 0012
Facebook: www.facebook.com/chinesecws/
Instagram: www.instagram.com/chinesecws/
Website: <https://chinesecws.org.uk/>
Email: admin@chinesecws.org.uk



Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)



The Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) is an independent UK-wide charity network, providing free, independent, impartial, and confidential advice on a range of issues including:

- Benefits
- Work
- Debt & Money
- Consumer Protections
- Housing
- Family
- Law & Court
- Immigration
- Health

CAB has offices operating across the whole of Devon offering similar services. Click here to find your nearest CAB: <https://www.cabdevon.org.uk/advice/>

The CAB aims to help you find the advice you need and challenge unfair treatment. They value diversity, promote equality and challenge discrimination. They also campaign to improve policies and practices that affect people's lives.

Website and webchat: Visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk for self-help resources, and to access CAB [webchat](#) and email advice service. If you don't have internet at home, you can often use the computers at your local CAB office; for example, the Exeter office at Dix's Field, Exeter EX1 1QA is happy for you to use their computers in reception.

Phone Assessment: Call the free CAB helpline on 0808 278 7845 (Mon–Fri, 10am–4pm). A member of the CAB team will assess your needs and arrange appropriate next steps, which may include:

- telephone or face-to-face appointment
- referral or signposting to another advice provider
- or providing further information

Dedicated Universal Credit Helpline: 0800 144 8 444.

Drop-in service: offering information and advice in-person. For example, Exeter CAB @ Dix's Field, Exeter EX1 1QA offers a drop in Mondays Wednesdays, 10am–1pm.

Translator/ interpreter support is available for all CAB services listed above.



Connected Romanians from Exeter Devon (C.R.E.D.)



A CIC supporting Romanians in the Exeter area, aiming to raise the level of their well-being and help them integrate into the fabric of Exeter and Devon while maintaining strong ties to Romanian heritage. We aim to:

- preserve Romanian traditions and values
- facilitate cultural exchange and understanding
- provide practical assistance for Romanians navigating life in the UK
- encourage Romanian entrepreneurship and professional development
- strengthen the bonds within our community and with our local neighbours

Email: info@cred-ro.co.uk
Phone : 07384 606094
Website: <https://www.cred-ro.co.uk/>



Crediton International Social and Cultural Organisation (CISCO)



Advice, advocacy, and free English classes for migrant workers and refugees living in the Crediton area. We provide advice and support for clients in their dealings with banks, Mid-Devon District Council, the DWP, estate agents, rental agencies, and utility suppliers etc.

We run free English lessons:

- Tuesday 7.00pm till 8.30pm in Crediton Town Council 6 North Street, Crediton, EX17 2BT
- Thursdays 10.00am to 11.30am in Boniface Centre, Crediton EX17 2AH

New students are always welcome.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ciscodevon/>
Contact: Natalia Letch
Phone: 07455824053
Email: natalia.letch@gmail.com



Devon Bengali Association (DBA)



We are a group of Bengalis committed to celebrating and sharing our culture, heritage, and traditions as well as supporting all Bengalis resident in Devon. The work we do includes:

- managing and promoting a local Bangla School for children of Bangladeshi origin.
- organising and promoting the Bengali New Year
- bringing together the Bengali community and welcoming Devon residents and businesses to be a part of our celebrations.
- holding an annual community gathering and awards ceremony

The catering trade is a big part of all Bengali communities across the UK and one important initiative we have undertaken has been to actively relieve the shortage of catering staff in restaurants across Devon by connecting much needed workers to local and regional businesses.

The Bengali tradition is one filled with beautiful colours, aromas, and tastes that will take you on an amazing journey of discovery. We offer everyone a warm welcome to join us on our journey that has swept us from 'Dhaka to Devon'. We say স্বাগতম 'Shagothom' (welcome)!

Phone: 07971 885789

Email: devonbengaliassociation.dba@gmail.com



Devon and Cornwall Refugee Support (DCRS)



Triage Services

Providing immigration Advice Authority (IAA) immigration advice at Level 3, asylum casework support, legal representation, social casework support, signposting, and advocacy.

Drop-in: 7 Whimble Street, PL1 2DH, Plymouth (Mondays and Thursdays 10:00 to 13:00.)
Phone: 07823 495931 (Monday to Friday 10:00 - 16:00). Covers Devon and Cornwall.
Email: caseworker@dcrs-plymouth.org (10:00 to 16:00). Covers Devon and Cornwall.

Health Point

A drop-in service providing health advocacy, education, and signposting for all aspects of health. At 7 Whimble Street every Tuesday from 9:30am to 1:00pm.

Call 01752 265 952 or email gp@dcrs-plymouth.org to find out more.

Devon and Cornwall wide services and projects

Destitution Support: Providing food vouchers for destitute asylum seekers and refugees
Service User Relief: Clothing, transport costs in certain circumstances, and providing items to facilitate education or training.
Fresh Claims Project: Supporting Appeal Rights Exhausted (A.R.E) clients with asylum claims.
Training: Bespoke training for organisations who need to understand this sector.
Activities: Various physical and mental health orientated activities.
Befriending: Linking local volunteers with asylum seekers and refugees
Legal: Legal Aid to support asylum and immigration cases for asylum seekers

Contact DCRS to find out more about county wide services and projects:

Phone: 01752 265 952
Email: hub@dcrs-plymouth.org
Website: <https://dcrs-plymouth.org/>

Plymouth based services and projects

English Classes: Classes at Beginner and Intermediate levels

Monday: 13:00 to 15:00 Wednesday: 10:00 to 12:00
 Thursday: 13:00 to 15:00 Friday: 10:30 to 12:00

Outreach Activities: A programme of various activities, every Thursday

Music Tutoring: Learn an instrument or share your musical talent. Tuesday 14:00 to 16:00.

Walking & Cycling: Guided tours of Plymouth and the surrounding areas on specified dates.

Contact us to find out more about Plymouth based services and projects:

Suvi Rehell: suvi.rehell@dcrs-plymouth.org
Tressa Thomas: tressa.thomas@dcrs-plymouth.org
Telephone: 01752 265 952



Devon Development Education (DDE)



DDE is an education charity, working with pupils, teachers and community groups in Devon. We aim to enable people of all ages to explore the major issues in our world and our connections to them. We reflect on the actions we can take, locally and globally, to make the world a better, fairer, and more sustainable place.

We:

- support and train teachers to bring global learning into their classrooms
- run projects with schools to celebrate diversity and combat racism
- promote fair trade
- link with schools in a rural region of Uganda – this is a long-standing relationship.

Our work in the community includes the Windrush group and Resilient Roots, which provide safe spaces for people of colour living in Devon. We also offer community driven guidance on diversity and inclusion.

Website: <https://www.globalcentred Devon.org.uk/> **Phone:** 01392 438811

Email: dde@globalcentred Devon.org.uk



Devon Ukrainian Association (DUA)



A trusted hub for cultural, educational, emotional, and practical support for Ukrainians. Our goal is to empower individuals and build a resilient Ukrainian community in Devon and the South West.

Cultural & Language Programming

- Ukrainian language school and teen club
- National holiday celebrations, religious services, cultural traditions
- Exhibitions, concerts, storytelling projects
- Arts & crafts workshops rooted in heritage

Employability & Enterprise

- Business support and self-employment pathways
- Markets and pop-ups for Ukrainian entrepreneurs
- Skills-based workshops: branding, budgeting, catering, sales
- Networking and mentoring through the Ukrainian Business Club

Mental Health & Wellbeing

- Accredited Living Life to the Full courses in Ukrainian
- Women's wellbeing workshops and peer support groups
- Trauma-informed support for children and families

Practical Support & Integration

- ESOL classes and translation support
- Housing navigation and advocacy
- Help with services, benefits, and referrals
- Social gatherings to reduce isolation

Civic Engagement & Solidarity

- Fundraising and humanitarian aid coordination
- Partnerships with councils, universities, and UK organisations
- Dialogue events and educational outreach
- Promoting Ukrainian voices in regional & national life

For our events listings and to subscribe to our news, check out our website: www.dua.org.uk

Email: welcome@dua.org.uk

Social Media: Search for **@DevonUkrainian** on Instagram, Facebook and Tiktok

Address: Devon Ukrainian Association CIC, 19 North Street, Exeter, EX4 3QS



Diversity Business Incubator CIC

Diversity Business Incubator (DBI), founded in Plymouth in 2018, was created to address the under-representation of ethnically diverse leadership and support minority entrepreneurs in the South West. DBI serves as a dedicated business hub, empowering individuals with entrepreneurial drive through community engagement and tailored events.



Our core services include:

- Professional consulting with an innovative EDI focus, incorporating lived experience and project management expertise.
- One-to-one mentoring, peer-to-peer business planning, and startup support
- Brokerage and advocacy to bridge systemic access gaps
- Specialized training in community engagement strategy and multiculturalism

DBI champions the belief that “your health is your wealth,” recognising the deep connection between economic stability, well-being, and social equity. By supporting Black entrepreneurs and fostering inclusive environments, DBI not only helps build sustainable businesses but also contributes to improved health outcomes, resilience, and community flourishing.

Website: www.dbi.org.uk/

Phone: 07376790747 or 01752 651010

Email: info@dbi.org.uk



Diverse Devon Together CIC

The objects of this partnership of 13 grass roots ethnic minority community organisations are to carry on activities which benefit the community and to further the interests of the partner organisations within Diverse Devon Together, including to:



- Reduce isolation
- Share skills, knowledge, experience and expertise
- Facilitate understanding and integration across different cultures
- Empower individuals and groups to express and to achieve their needs and ambitions
- Encourage a sense of community beyond that of the obvious and immediate community; to extend to and include those who may have appeared foreign or different
- Improve health and well-being of all communities in Exeter and Devon

We welcome all ethnic minority communities to join our partnership.

Address: Exeter Community Centre, 17 St David's Hill, Exeter EX4 3RG.

Phone: 01392 848741 or 01392 201572

Email: admin@exetercommunitiestogether.org.uk

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Diversedevontgether/>



East Devon Malayalee Association (EDMA)

We are a community-led, non-profit association dedicated to supporting and celebrating the cultural identity, welfare, and integration of the Malayalee (Kerala-origin) community in East Devon and surrounding areas. Our activities include:



- Cultural festivals and events
- Community outreach and volunteer work
- Language and youth engagement programs
- Support for new members and their families

Email: edmamalayalee@gmail.com

Phone: 07833 857420

Website: <https://edmamalayalee.co.uk>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/people/Edma-Malayalee/61565893269539/>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@EDMA-Malayalee>



Eat That Frog

Eat That Frog CIC is a specialist post-16 institution and adult training provider with centres across South Devon. We offer bespoke post-16 curriculum packages tailored to the needs of each learner. We focus on future employment, preparing for adulthood, health and well-being, independence, life and social skills and community inclusion. We also deliver funded programmes to residents of Torbay, Newton Abbot, Exeter and Plymouth.



We enable people to identify and overcome their barriers to live a more fulfilled life. Whether you're a teenager or an adult, it's never too late to learn. We provide safe and fun learning environments, tailored around you!

Phone: 01803 551551 **Email:** info@eatthatfrog.ac.uk
Website: <http://eatthatfrog.ac.uk/> **Address:** 91 Union Street, Torquay, Devon, TQ1 3DG



Exeter Hindu Cultural Centre's Trust

The Southwest peninsula has a vibrant, multicultural society, with people from all around the world attracted to a region with one of the fastest growing economies in the UK.



The Hindu population has grown rapidly as new residents move to Devon and other parts of the region, attracted by commercial and employment opportunities or by the chance to study at the highly regarded Exeter university or one of the region's medical / dental schools. We believe that it is now time to build a cultural centre and place of worship for the growing Hindu community. But this core ambition is not the only purpose of our organisation, we are also here to:

- welcome Hindus arriving in the area
- provide social and cultural support to resident Hindus
- offer guidance, and signpost new arrivals to local services
- increase understanding and awareness of Hindu culture
- provide support and help to those facing hardship, irrespective of where they are from;

Phone: 07907373216
Email: exeterhcc@gmail.com
Website: <https://www.exeterhcc.com>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/exeter temple/>



Exeter Malayalee Association

Exeter Malayalee Association is a non-political, non-profit making, social and cultural organisation for people from Kerala, the southern state of India, living in Exeter.



Email: emaexeter@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://m.facebook.com/groups/312560703877218/about/>



Exeter Mosque and Cultural Centre

In the 1970s, Muslims in Exeter offered their daily prayers in their homes. The majority of Muslims who first moved to Exeter were involved in the restaurant trade. On special occasions such as Eid, they would invite the Muslim community to celebrate together at their restaurants. There are now over 3000 Muslims in the city, of all ages, races, professions, and personalities.



Address: 12-15 York Road, Exeter, Devon, EX4 6PG

Phone: 01392250597

Email: office@exetermosque.org.uk

Website: <https://exetermosque.org.uk/>



Exeter Respect CIC

Exeter Respect CIC was established to promote diversity, equality, and human rights in Exeter and across Devon. It is best known for organising the Exeter Respect Festival, the biggest diversity festival in the Southwest. In 2025, we will celebrate our 28th birthday. The Exeter Respect Festival brings together a huge range of people, groups, and organisations from diverse backgrounds.



Exeter Respect CIC also offers a range of services throughout the year:

- support for BAME families, including family conferencing and parenting courses
- equality and diversity training
- mentoring for women and young people from minority ethnic communities
- homework clubs for schools
- football tournaments
- anti-racism projects
- consultation and training services: cultural competence, tackling racism

Website: <https://www.exeter-respect.org/>

Address: Exeter Respect CIC, LBD House, 39 George Street, Exeter, EX1 1D

Email: info@exeter-respect.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ExeRespect/>



Filipino Community Association

The Filipino Community Association is a non-profit, non-political, tax-exempt, and non-sectarian organization.



Our purposes include:

- Welcoming new Filipinos to Devon and connecting them with local services.
- Promoting cultural diversity, ethnic pride, unity and building stronger relationships amongst Filipinos and with wider communities in Devon.
- Promoting Philippine culture, heritage, interests and concerns
- Participating in sports, civic, charity events, and community services.
- Providing aid for urgent needs in the Philippines, especially during calamities.
- Collaborating with similar groups, including charities and voluntary organisations, to exchange knowledge, information, advice and support.

Email : lws_rln@yahoo.co.uk

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/858817157838756/announcements>



Hikmat Devon CIC

Hikmat Devon CIC is a member-led community interest company providing services to BAME people living in Devon and Torbay.



Our purposes are:

- to empower individuals, families, and communities to access the skills, employment, housing, education, leisure pursuits, and well-being to which they are entitled.
- to provide statutory and other mainstream services with good quality local information through the provision of bespoke consultation events and other forms of data capture.
- to promote good relations between minority ethnic and mainstream white British residents.

Since 2005, Hikmat has been developing several strands of service provision and currently delivers around 2000 in-person sessions annually through:

- Hikmat Chinese Group (Mandarin and Cantonese-speaking, weekly, Tuesday lunch times)
- Sweetie Ladies (East and Southeast Asian women, North Devon)
- Hikmat Line Dancing (multi-cultural, includes performances)
- Hikmat Chinese Painting Classes (multicultural, includes exhibitions)
- Hikmat Fit and Fun (multicultural, indoor team and individual sports including women-only swimming, gym and Pilates)
- Tots and Tinies sessions (for parents with very young children)
- Arts and Crafts Workshops (with partner organisations RAMM, CoLab, Phoenix, Devon and Exeter Institute and Exeter Cathedral)
- Zenofilya Training (multi-cultural skills training and confidence building)
- Counselling (6 session solution-focused counselling on-line and in-person)
- Afghan Resettlement Scheme
- Community Consultation and local services scrutiny (through the Devon Engagement Service and Devon Assembly)

We also offer individual support with navigating health and social care pathways, accessing school admissions, carers' issues, completing forms, victim support, resettlement, and other challenges. Our staff team combines a considerable wealth of spoken and written languages, clinical skills, and other professional training, as well as lived experience of migration and translocation.

Contact: Kharun Shah (Senior Administrator)
Address: St Sidwells Community Centre, Sidwell Street, Exeter EX4 6NN
Email: info@hikmatdevon.co.uk
Website: <https://www.hikmatdevon.co.uk/>



Hongkongers In Devon

Founded in 2020 as a community initiative and formally incorporated in 2022, *Hongkongers in Devon* is a non-profit organisation dedicated to supporting the Hong Kong community across Devon and neighbouring cities.



Our mission is to create a welcoming, connected, and culturally vibrant community by:

- Providing support for Hongkongers living in Exeter, Devon, and neighbouring areas.
- Organising regular social and networking events to foster friendship and mutual support.
- Facilitating integration into local communities through engagement, learning, and cultural exchange.
- Offering access to English language classes to help members settle and thrive.
- Promoting Hong Kong culture and traditions within Exeter and beyond.
- Supporting Hong Kong parents and children in maintaining their cultural identity.
- Helping children learn Cantonese and deepen their understanding of Hong Kong heritage.
- Organising and taking part in charitable and community service activities.

Email: hkersindevon@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063579969117>



Imagine – Torbay Multicultural Group

Imagine is a multi-cultural group whose activities aim to provide benefit to people living in Torbay, both from ethnic groups and the wider community. We do this by championing cultural diversity through social events, workshops, training, and professional/personal development. Embedded within each activity, workshop or therapeutic engagement is the aim of encouraging social cohesion and integration, increasing participants' confidence and encouraging sustainable contribution to the wider community through supported volunteering, training, and employability.



Contact Lorrie Layne for more information and dates of events:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064739886627>

Mobile: 07939 326751

Email : imaginefortorbay@gmail.com

Website: <https://imaginetorbay1.wixsite.com/imagine-torbay-cic>

Address: 4 Cecil Avenue, Paignton TQ3 1LW



Inclusive Exeter

Inclusive Exeter delivers a range of activities to help put people from ethnically diverse communities on an equal footing in terms of having fair and equal access to the same opportunities as mainstream communities.



We operate on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9.30 am – 1.30 pm, from Southernhay Church, EX1 1QD.

People will be able to access our Drop-In Support Service where we offer help to people whose first language is not English, that is informal help with form-filling and a wide range of issues where language, limited familiarity with mainstream services, No Recourse to Public Funds and limited IT skills are barriers.

People can also meet with our staff and volunteers, join the English Conversation Group, join our Yoga sessions (women only), and find out more about our programme of physical activities, including Volleyball, Martial Arts and Badminton, all delivered by people from diverse communities; as well as cultural events, celebrating the rich heritage of our city's diverse communities.

They will also be able to find out about other services across the city, meet with representatives from other organisations or people might just want to pop in for a coffee and a chat!

Email: admin@inclusiveexeter.org.uk

Website: <https://www.inclusiveexeter.org>



Italian Cultural Association Exeter

The Italian Cultural Association Exeter is a community root organisation made up of Italians living in Devon and local people interested in Italian culture. It was started in 2010 and its main aim is to keep Italian culture alive for the diaspora and also offer an insight into Italian culture to the community.



Since our beginning, we have organised:

- monthly cinema events (nowadays in collaboration with Exeter Phoenix)
- social events related to Italian language and food sharing
- Italian music and dance workshops
- and successful music evenings with invited Italian artists.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ItalianCultureExeter>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/italian_association_exeter/

Email: italiancultureexeter@gmail.com



The Kurdish Community Devon

The Kurdish Community Devon began with a small group of Kurdish students at the University of Exeter in 2010 and later extended to embrace other Kurdish people living across Devon, including small business owners and their workers, families and friends. Kurdish people have spread around the world over the last three decades, mainly due to political situations in their home countries.



Kurdish Community Devon is a hub for cultural, social, and political activities of Kurds in Devon. We:

- aim to be a bridge between the Kurds and all the other ethnic groups living in Devon
- encourage the Kurdish community to integrate within wider society
- assist our community members to access services and education
- work to preserve and promote the richness of the Kurdish culture.
- coordinate the Kurdish Spring/ New Year Newroz, celebration in March
- organise monthly Kurdish film screenings at the Phoenix
- Kurdish Traditional Dance teaching sessions
- offer Kurdish Language and Tembur (a traditional instrument) classes for children (7 to 14)
- arrange academic and non-academic seminars and talks regarding Kurdish issues

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/kurdish.devon>

Mobile: 07846817274

Email: kurdishc.devon@gmail.com



Migrant Social Integration

Migrant Social Integration (MSI), launched in 2022, is a unique programme based on a proven social integration framework. The partnership programme covers Devon, Cornwall, Plymouth, and Torbay, with delivery supported by Plymouth Hope, and is primarily aimed at supporting the social integration of international recruits working in the health and social care sector.

Support for care providers, employers and other organisations in the sector. We believe that true impact comes from collaboration and MSI would like to walk alongside you as you support international recruits in the workplace. Support we offer includes training in Equality, Diversity & Inclusion, Cultural Awareness, and Modern Slavery. Get in touch to book a 1:1 session; use our weekly drop in on Zoom every Thursday 14:30 - 15:00; or join our network to keep up to date

Support for International Recruits and workers in the sector. We offer a wealth of integration resources, information guides and webinars on a range of topics, including cultural adaptation, legal matters, healthcare and education.

We provide support with: Pre-arrival contact - Arrival induction sessions - Creating a bespoke support plan - Training sessions - Drop in sessions online every Thursday 12:45 - 13:45. Become a member for FREE to access resources and news about events.

Volunteering for integration. We work to promote a vibrant community where individuals thrive physically, mentally, and emotionally. Building a strong social network is vital for a sense of belonging and volunteering can play a key role in the integration of migrants who can and are willing to contribute their skills through volunteering.

Email: socialintegration@plymouthhope.org.uk



Mixed Families Together Group

We connect mixed heritage and global majority families across Devon. We organise regular family meetups which uplift and celebrate diverse heritages across the group and help families feel part of a vibrant, supportive community.



For more information, please email mixedfamielstogether@gmail.com or follow us on Instagram https://www.instagram.com/mixedfamilies_together/



Multilingua Devon CIC

We deliver interpretation and translation services for public service providers, schools, groups, and individuals. We provide services in over 100 languages with a database of over 300 local freelance interpreters and translators.



The county's only locally based professional translation and interpretation service, Multilingua Devon was founded in 2007 in order to meet the language needs of local BAME communities and support equality of access to public services. Initially supported by Devon County Council, we are now financially self-sufficient, but we remain a not-for-profit business. We support other charitable organisations and have a close relationship with our interpreters. The biggest difference between us and many larger, national companies is that we are local; we know the area and understand the needs of local communities well.

Our interpreters are trained and have DBS checks. Most are native speakers with a BA or higher university degree from their own country. We match the right interpreter to each job.

Multilingua provides:

- trained local interpreters in over 100 languages
- prompt responses to all enquiries and a speedy service
- specialist interpreting e.g. mental health, medical, child protection, counselling, domestic violence, housing, education, legal topics
- written translation on request in any language (email the document to get a quote)
- in-house training and workshops

Address: Civic Centre, Room 1.1, Paris Street, Exeter, EX1 1JN (above CAB)

Mobile: 07951 948038 (Paula Taylor-Gencer)

Email: info@multilinguadevon.co.uk

Website: <https://www.multilinguadevon.co.uk/>



Nigerian Community in Exeter (NCIE)



"This group connects Nigerians in Exeter (both at work and in school) to support personal growth, career advancement, and community building. Key aims include:

1. Empowering members to support themselves and their families.
2. Sharing information on global opportunities and offering life coaching.
3. Assisting with UK job opportunities and career decisions.
4. Providing workshops for skill and knowledge development.
5. Facilitating networking for collaboration in similar career paths.
6. Guiding newcomers in settling and understanding UK laws.

Joy Okumbor (President): info@ncie.org.uk

Samuel Salami (PRO): Admin@ncie.org.uk

Facebook: <https://m.facebook.com/groups/840526011279031/?ref=share>

Nigerians in North Devon (NIND)

NIND's Mission:

- To preserve and encourage fellowship among members.
- To establish an association for all Nigerians living in North Devon.
- To promote unity within the Nigerian community.
- To support families by fostering relationships that benefit members' interests.
- To build and sustain supportive connections among members and maintain a comprehensive member database.
- To create outreach opportunities and safeguard members' interests and well-being.

Email: Nigeriansinnorthdevon@gmail.com

Phone: 07729371349 or 07716957476



Odils (Open Doors International Language School)



Free English language education, skills development mentorships, employment, and community integration support for ethnic minority groups.

Hello! We are here to help you. No matter where you come from, how well you speak English or what your beliefs are, you have a home at Odils Learning Foundation. We teach English Language classes to people who are refugees, seeking asylum or part of ethnic minority groups here in the UK. Our centre is located in Plymouth, Devon but we also have an office in Exeter. We help provide skills development so that people can find employment and integrate successfully. Many of our services and classes are free. Find out how it works or get in touch with us to see how we can help you. We are Odils and we are here for you because you belong here.

Email: info@odils.com

Phone: 01752 258770 OR 01752 258771

Website: <https://odils.com/>



THE
OLIVE PROJECT

The Olive Project

Our core aims:

To work with black and minoritized women and girls who are subjected to abuse and violence, and to support them to live free from harm.



To work with black and minoritized women and girls to support them to advocate for their own rights.

To deliver effective and meaningful training to public, private, and voluntary organisations to eradicate the experience of institutional oppression faced by black and minoritized women.

To develop and lead local campaigns to bring real and lasting change for black and minoritized women and girls living in Devon and Cornwall and the surrounding areas.

Phone : 03330 495031

Email: alexis@theoliveproject.uk

Website: <https://www.theoliveproject.uk/>

Address: Co-Lab, 3 King William Street, Exeter Devon, EX4 6PD



Outreach Southwest CIC

Outreach Southwest CIC runs the Exeter International Cafe at various church locations across Exeter, meeting term time from 4.00pm to

5.30pm.



Come and practise your English with native speakers and other internationals. Learn about British culture, traditions, and life in Exeter. Tea, coffee, cake, and a warm welcome to all internationals, at any level of English.

Website: <https://www.outreachsouthwest.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61573521240585>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/outreachsouthwest>

YouTube: <https://youtube.com/@outreachsouthwest>

Sign up for our events here: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/exeterinternationalcafe>



Migration &
Resettlement





Plymouth and Devon Race Equality Council (PDREC)



We work towards the elimination of racial discrimination and to promote equality of opportunity, and good relations, between persons of different racial groups within the county of Devon (including Plymouth, Exeter, and Torbay)

PDREC understand that collaboration improves the potential of our organisation to make a difference. We welcome opportunities to share practice and develop partnerships, and we believe this commitment makes us better placed to meet the diverse needs of our community members.

We work with our communities in the following ways:

- benefit and debt advice
- tailored support for women
- first contact support for domestic violence
- hate crime reporting centre and victim care
- support and advice for parents on education issues
- tutoring and support for school-age children and young people

We also work strategically with a range of partners across Devon on partnership projects and forums with a view to reaching our targets on race equality and community cohesion.

Website: <https://www.plymouthanddevonrec.org.uk/>

Contact: <https://www.plymouthanddevonrec.org.uk/contact.html>



Pickwell Foundation



Since 2016, we have welcomed 7 refugee families from the MENA (Middle

East/North Africa) region through the Government's Community Sponsorship Scheme, and are looking forward to welcoming 3 more families in the coming year.

We recruit, train, and mentor groups to work alongside families and support them to independence.

We have also:

- welcomed 300+ Ukrainian guests into the North Devon and Torridge districts, assigning caseworkers to support every guest and host, who can help with problem solving and signposting to additional support.
- started to welcome families under the ARAP Scheme – supporting up to 18 Afghan families to our area with a full package of integration support needed. We are basing our framework around the Community Sponsorship model as it works so well.

- responded to the needs of other Afghan families needing resettlement to the UK from Pakistan.
- provided host and guest support for anyone offering a home to someone in the asylum process.
- worked with the local authorities to design services to support any future arrivals of displaced people to the area.

Website: <https://www.thepickwellfoundation.org.uk/>
Phone (Barnstaple office): 01271 649108
Email: info@thepickwellfoundation.org.uk
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/thepickwellfoundation/>



Plymouth Hope

Plymouth Hope is a charitable organisation run by volunteers who believe in social equality. We recognise the social and health benefits of sport and wellbeing, and we work to ensure that children and young people have access to play and wellbeing programmes. We are known for creating platforms to bring communities together and fostering social cohesion.



Here is a list of our clubs, programmes and other support. Unless otherwise provided, these take place at 13 Beaumont Road, Plymouth PL4 9BA:

- **Free asylum & immigration advice:** Drop -ins and appointments, Tuesdays and Fridays 10am to 1pm. OISC-accredited.
- **Digital hub:** Fridays 10am to 1pm
- **Youth Music Lessons:** Mondays 4pm-6pm
- **Youth Digital:** Tuesdays 4pm-6pm
- **Girls and Women Empowerment:** Tuesdays 4pm-6pm
- **Fit and Fed:** Seasonal during half term. Contact our general enquiries for more details
- **Youth Social Action:** Based on our anti-racism charter, we deliver school sessions to support young people aged 10-18 affected by bullying, racism and discrimination, along with support to school staff to understand how to support students from diverse backgrounds. Contact general enquiries for details.
- **Women's coffee morning:** Thursdays 11.30-2pm.
- **Women's exercise and swimming:** Contact our general enquiries line for more information.
- **Youth football training:** Wednesdays 5pm-6pm (community football), Fridays 5pm-6.30pm (league training). @ Victoria Park, PL1 5NG
- **Adult Football Training:** Fridays 5.30pm-7pm (league and community football)
- **Men's conversation club:** Wednesdays, 4.30pm-7pm

- **Social Friday:** playing games and sharing hot meals. Fridays 3.30pm-7pm, fortnightly from 2nd May 2025. @ Sherwell Church, PL4 8ER

Please note that times of our sessions and activities change during the winter season, so please contact our general enquiry line for more information.

Website: <https://plymouthhope.com/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/plymouthhopeInternational/>
Phone: +44 (0) 1752 289 071 OR +44 (0) 7712418206 (*general inquiries*)
Email: info@plymouthhope.org.uk or david.f@plymouthhope.org.uk
Address: Plymouth Hope, Youth Centre, 13 Beaumont Road, Plymouth, PL4 9BA



Refugee Support Devon

Refugee Support Devon (RSD)



RSD is an independent local charity based at the Exeter Community Centre. We offer a range of services to the refugee and asylum seeker community including:

- **twice-weekly drop-in:** offering information, support, and signposting for accessing legal services and for navigating life in the UK
- **weekly immigration clinic:** accredited by IAA to offer up to Level 2 advice
- **destitution relief:** coordinating referrals to crisis services and providing immediate financial support via the RSD emergency fund
- **education and employability:** providing online English language classes and employment training
- **refugee resettlement:** since 2016, in partnership with Devon County Council (DCC), we have supported over 30 families resettled in Devon as a result of the war in Syria. In 2019, DCC awarded us the contract for the provision of integration casework in wider Devon,
- **community allotment:** a safe space for refugees to grow their own fruit and vegetables
- **RAMP (refugees as medical professionals) Devon:** assisting forced migrants who are qualified health practitioners to follow an appropriate training pathway

Address: Exeter Community Centre, 17 St David's Hill, Exeter, Devon EX4 3RG
Phone: 01392 682185
Website: <https://refugeesupportdevon.org.uk/>



South Asian Society - Devon and Cornwall



The South Asian Society (SAS) was founded in the year 2003. The main aim of this society is to create a cultural, social, and mutual support network for Devon and Cornwall's increasingly large South Asian community. SAS has a wide membership base of people who are drawn from countries surrounding the Indian sub-continent or are part of the Asian Diaspora.

Contact: <https://www.southasiansociety.org.uk/contact-us/> (contact form)

Website: <https://www.southasiansociety.org.uk/>

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100057501465744&locale=ms_MY



St. Sidwell's Community Centre

St. Sidwell's Centre



We are a community centre in the heart of Exeter, giving a warm

welcome to all. We offer a wide programme of activities, events, and services for the local community, including:

English for Speakers of Other Languages classes - Monday- Saturday

Free classes taught by experienced volunteer teachers run nearly every day of the week and are open to everyone – including refugees, asylum seekers, migrant workers, and students.

<https://stsidwells.org.uk/what-we-do/esol>

Volunteer and work-experience programme

We welcome volunteers across all of our projects – whether people want to make friends, improve their English, or gain work experience. <https://stsidwells.org.uk/work-with-us/volunteer>

Community café and bakery

Serving up homemade, affordable food and training people in cooking and baking skills.

Gardening projects

We grow vegetables and look after one of the few large green spaces in Exeter city centre – a great way to get outside and meet others. Currently groups meet Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Meeting room and venue hire

A range of rooms are available for one off or regular bookings. We offer affordable rates and can support new groups with discounted hire.

Digital Skills, Work and Wellbeing drop-in

Our drop-in is open to all, every Thursday 2-4pm. Come in for a chat about how to find a job, how to write a CV, you can get help to find other organisations such as Citizens Advice, chat about money, benefits, wellbeing and mental health support. We have laptops you can use and we will be on hand to give you help when you need. We can also book 1:1s at a mutually convenient time. Email dropin@stsidwells.org.uk

Address: St Sidwell's Community Centre, Sidwell St, Exeter EX4 6NN

Website: <https://stsidwells.org.uk/>

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/StSidscc/?locale=en_GB

Phone: 01392 666222

Emails: *Volunteering* - volunteer@stsidwells.org.uk *ESOL* - christine@stsidwells.org.uk
Drop-in - dropin@stsidwells.org.uk *Room Bookings* - bookings@stsidwells.org.uk



Sunrise Diversity

Sunrise Diversity is a grassroots charity promoting equality, diversity and social inclusion in rural communities in North Devon. We work with the community to eliminate discrimination and promote strong, positive community relations through our range of services and activities, which challenge discrimination, help change attitudes, and celebrate diversity.



Sunrise provides a range of free services, activities, and training in North Devon for individuals with diverse identities including migrants, asylum seekers, refugees, people of colour, individuals with no recourse to public funds (NRPF), and the LGBTQ+ community.

Services include:

- confidential support and advocacy
- English language classes and activities (for speakers of other languages)
- social opportunities
- skills and knowledge sessions.

Phone: 01271 328915

Email: admin@sunrisediversity.org.uk

Website: <https://sunrisediversity.org.uk/>



Tavistock: Stand Up To Racism

T:SUTR is a group based in Tavistock and the surrounding area. We:

- promote positive attitudes toward migrants, different ethnicities, cultures and religions
- challenge racist misinformation and racist attitudes
- organise stalls with anti-racist materials, educational sessions, public meetings and cultural events
- develop and maintain a network of informed local people who can support victims and respond to threats of racist or fascist activity



Email: Tavistanduptoracism@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/471756679021277>



Teignbridge VCSE Led Support Programme

A partnership programme led by Teignbridge CVS supporting refugees/non-UK nationals living in Teignbridge. The partnership ensures that refugees and, where they are a part of any programme, host families, have access to support that includes



- Home visits on arrival and support to settle
- Support to access essential services including GPs, education, social care, housing
- Advice to access welfare benefits and employment;
- Help with form filling and applying for essential documents
- Social groups across many of the towns in Teignbridge with support available
- Access to employability skills advice and employment workshops
- Support to volunteer locally
- Support for families where there are children under 5 years.

We can also connect you with English teachers who provide free ESOL classes at the Courtenay Centre, Kingsteignton Road, Newton Abbot TQ12 2QA. Contact us for more details.

Email: refugeesupport@teigncvs.org.uk **Telephone:** 07918 205356

Website: <https://www.teigncvs.org.uk/projects/homes-for-ukraine-programme>



Ubuntu Counselling Services Ltd



A Multicultural Counselling Service Social Enterprise

providing an evidence-based, holistic Counselling Service for Black and Minority Ethnic Communities across Devon. Our objectives are:

- to provide psychotherapeutic services (mainly short-term), suited to BME communities
- to work alongside community networks so as to ensure cultural sensitivity and accessibility
- to link seamlessly with statutory services, including NHS and GPs
- to sign-post to other support agencies so as to ensure continuation of care
- to continue to develop the service so as to meet BME community needs
- to research and collect evidence of the mental health needs of BME communities in Devon
- to monitor and evaluate the service so that it remains relevant and responsive to need

We normally see clients within one week of referral, depending on availability. The service is free to clients and we are working hard to maintain this offer

We are organisational members of the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP) and abide by its code of ethics. Therapists are either accredited, on the BACP register of therapists, or working towards registration and accreditation.

Address: Exeter Community Centre, 17 St David’s Hill, Exeter EX4 3RG.
Phone: 01392 201572.
Email: info@ubuntu-counselling-services.org.uk.
Website: <http://ubuntu-counselling-services.org.uk/>



Ubuntu Educational & Mentoring Services CIC



Who: We are Devon’s leading organisation for equality and educational services that is Global Majority Led

Why: To build vibrant communities where creativity flourishes, authentic collaboration is celebrated, and all individuals feel empowered and supported. Through our legacy of equity, understanding and affinity, we strive to create a more inclusive and just society for all.

What we do: Ubuntu Educational & Mentoring Services creates safe spaces for critical conversations about equity and race.

How: Through Education, Support and Creativity.

Our services include:



- Community Engagement & Advocacy
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Training
- Mentoring
- Windrush Legacy Series3u
- Bridging Cultures Workshops EYFS, KS1,2,3 and 4
- Theatre and Multimedia Production

Our Inspiration: Ubuntu means "I am, because WE are" - this African proverb speaks to the fact that we cannot exist in isolation.

Website: <https://www.ubuntu-ed.co.uk/>

Phone: 01803262271

Email: info@ubuntu-ed.co.uk



University of Exeter Students' Guild - International Societies



The University of Exeter Students' Guild offers hundreds of student-led societies, including many with an international focus. Societies are a great way to make friends and build connections. If you're an international student and want to explore the societies you can join, check page X of this directory or scan the QR code



Zebra Collective

Zebra Collective offers equalities consultancy, reflective learning and training, including general workshops on equality core concepts, as well as specific offers regarding cultural capability, anti-racism, challenging discrimination (courageous conversations) and unconscious bias



In our community work, we show a conscious commitment to actively promoting inclusion of all people who are at risk of exclusion, including people from ethnically minoritised communities.

We run a free Stay & Play Toddler Group for all 0-4 year olds called 'Little Zebras', from 10.00am-11.30am every Tuesday during term-time. All families are welcome!

Finally, we run a women-only community ESOL English class with a creche on Thursdays during term-time, from 10.00am to 12.00pm

Email: info@zebra.coop **Website:** www.zebra.coop

Address: 75 Clowance Street, Devonport, Plymouth PL1 4LQ

Section 2: Services by Theme

Learning English. ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages)



DCC's ESOL and Engagement Team (see page 57) provides resources, signposting, and expert advice to ESOL learners and practitioners, and works with ESOL providers to improve information sharing and collaboration. You can find details of all English language classes on offer in Devon on our interactive map at <https://www.devon.gov.uk/migration-and-resettlement/maps/>. If you need information or advice about ESOL, including help with finding the right English language class, please contact us at ESOL@devon.gov.uk

Mainstream (accredited) ESOL

To study towards a recognised qualification in English, sign up (subject to eligibility) for a course at a Further Education (FE) college or with the county council's own Adult Education provider, Learn Devon. ESOL courses offered by these providers are usually free for eligible learners.

Exeter College:

Contact: adultESOL@exe-coll.ac.uk or lauragrix@exe-coll.ac.uk

Website: <https://exe-coll.ac.uk/course/esol-skills-for-life/>



PETROC (Barnstaple and Tiverton):

Contact: adultsuccesscoaches@petroc.ac.uk

Website: https://www.petroc.ac.uk/course-search/?_sf_s=esol



City College Plymouth:

Contact: info@cityplym.ac.uk

Website: https://www.cityplym.ac.uk/study/course-search/?swpquery=esol&_search=esol



South Devon College (Torbay):

Contact: Enquiries@southdevon.ac.uk
 Website: <https://www.southdevon.ac.uk/>



Learn Devon:

Contact: learndevon@devon.gov.uk
 Website: <https://www.learndevon.co.uk/subjects/english-esol/>



Workers' Educational Association (WEA):

Contact: Alison.Salm@wea.ac.uk
 Website: <https://www.wea.org.uk/courses/esol>



Community ESOL

Devon is lucky to have many voluntary and community organisations and groups that offer free English classes and conversation groups. While most of these classes do not lead to a qualification, community ESOL classes are usually taught by well-qualified and experienced teachers. As well as helping learners to improve their English, they also support integration by helping to build strong connections in the local community. The main providers of community ESOL in Devon are:

CISCO – see page 8

DCRS – see page 10

Imagine Torbay – see page 18

Odils Academy – see page 23

Pickwell Foundation – see page 25

Refugee Support Devon – see page 27

St Sidwell's Centre – see page 28

Sunrise Diversity – see page 29

Teignbridge CVS – see page 30

Online ESOL and an app

Online classes at different levels are available for learners who face difficulties accessing face-to-face English classes in their local area.

- Learn Devon – <https://www.learndevon.co.uk/subjects/english-esol/>
- Our ESOL and Engagement Team. Contact us at ESOL@devon.gov.uk

For studying at home there is also a free app - AILEM – that has been created by refugees to support other refugees and asylum seekers. Go to <https://www.ailemapplaunch.org/>

Employment and Careers



Finding a job in Devon when your first language is not English can be extremely challenging. Fortunately, there are a number of organisations offering support with:

- *job searches*
- *writing a CV and/or a letter of application*
- *advice on interview techniques in UK*
- *signposting to work-experience and volunteering opportunities (volunteering is a great way to practice English and to improve your CV)*
- *English for Specific Purposes (ESP) – the extra English that you might need in order to work in a particular trade or profession, e.g. English for Construction*



Job Centre Plus (JC+)

The first place to go if you are looking for a job and/or to sign on for benefits. You will be introduced to a Job Coach who will help you search for jobs. JC+ can also provide free training, help with getting qualifications translated – and much more. <https://www.gov.uk/contact-jobcentre-plus>



CONNECT TO WORK

Funded by **UK Government**

Connect to Work

Connect to Work is a free programme designed to help people who are facing barriers to employment find and stay in meaningful work.

For those who are eligible, the programme will offer personalised, one-to-one support from a dedicated employment specialist who will:

- Understand your career goals
- Help overcome challenges and barriers
- Match you with suitable job opportunities
- Support a smooth transition into work and promote inclusive workplaces

If you're ready to take the next step, contact The Team on at ctwenquiries@devon.gov.uk



Devon's Youth and Employment Hubs



There are six physical hubs in the county, providing in-person support to help you find out about different career options, jobs, and learning opportunities.

Whether you are a young person aged 16+ looking for career opportunities or an adult looking to retrain, find a new path or get back to work, our advisors can work with you for as long as you need to take the next step on your employment, learning or skills journey. Hubs are available in:

Exeter Central Library

The Bookery in Crediton

The Beehive Community Centre in Honiton

Tiverton Library

Barnstaple Library

Ilfracombe Library

Newton Abbot Library

For more information about opening times or to make an appointment for any of the hubs, email employmenthub@devon.gov.uk or visit <https://www.devon.gov.uk/economy-enterprise-skills/skills/employment-hubs/>

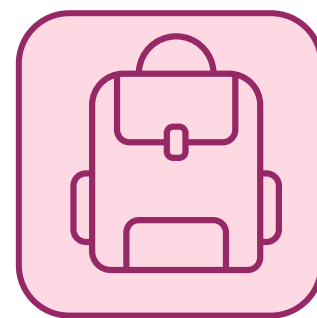
Other local support with finding the right job

The following organisations can provide specific employment support for ethnically diverse communities:

- **Pickwell Foundation, North Devon** - see page 25
- **Teignbridge CVS, Teignbridge** – see page 30
- **Odils Academy, Plymouth** – see page 23
- **St Sidwell's Centre, Exeter** – see page 28. The centre runs a drop-in every Thursday from 2pm to 4pm which is open to all, including jobseekers looking for advice. Laptops are available.
- **East Devon District Council Homes for Ukraine Team** <https://eastdevon.gov.uk/housing-and-homelessness/resettlement-projects/what-is-homes-for-ukraine-scheme/>

To find other support in your area freely available to all members of the public, see our interactive map: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/migration-and-resettlement/maps/>

Children's Education



Early Years

The government in UK provides funding for all 3 and 4 year old children to attend early years provision for up to **30** hours per week for free.

Children aged 9 months to 2 years old currently can receive 15 hours per week of free early years provision. From September 2025, this will increase to 30 hours per week. To find out more about Early Years support available in Devon, and how to apply for a place for your child, visit

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/early-years-and-childcare/>

School Admissions

If you are resident in Devon, you can apply for a place in a mainstream state primary or secondary school. For guidance on how to apply for a school place for your child and for information about where to go if you need support:



- **visit our website** <https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/apply-for-a-school-place/>
- **email** the DCC Admissions team at admissions@devon.gov.uk
- or **call** the My Devon helpline on 0345 155 1019



Ethnically Diverse Education Achievement Service (EDEAS)

EDEAS provides advice and guidance to support schools to remove barriers and inequalities in attainment and achievement for ethnically diverse children and young people, as well as those learning English as an additional language (EAL), including providing Equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) and bilingual resources. We provide bilingual support, EAL, GRTS and EDI consultancy, as well as interpreting and translation services to schools and Early years providers.

Contact: educate.educationethnicdiverseachievement-mailbox@devon.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/support-schools-settings/inclusion/ethnically-diverse-education-achievement-service/>

Interpreter booking request: <https://tinyurl.com/EDEASbooking>

Send translations to educate.educationbilingualsupport-mailbox@devon.gov.uk for a free quote.



EAL (English as an Additional Language)

EAL is the term used in the UK in reference to supporting children of refugees and other migrants with learning English. The following places provide advice, guidance and support with EAL:

- **EDEAS:** see previous entry
- **Visit the Bell Foundation:** <https://www.bell-foundation.org.uk/> for expert guidance on EAL for parents, teachers and schools
- **The EAL academy:** <https://theealacademy.co.uk/> guidance and practical tools for teachers and EAL consultancy and training packages for schools



Schools of Sanctuary

A growing national network of more than 680 schools and nurseries, all committed to creating a culture of welcome, understanding and belonging for refugees and other migrants. In Devon, the Schools of Sanctuary initiative is being championed by the Pickwell Foundation (see page 25).

Website: <https://schools.cityofsanctuary.org/>



Adult Education



Further Education (FE)

Colleges in the UK offer a wide range of courses to adults aged 16 and over. You can sign up for a course whether you are 16 or 76. All courses for 16 to 18 year olds are free. In Devon, there are three FE Colleges and DCC's own FE provider, Learn Devon

- **Exeter College** <https://exe-coll.ac.uk/>
- **Petroc College** - Barnstaple and Tiverton campuses <https://www.petroc.ac.uk/>
- **South Devon College** -Torbay and Newton Abbot campuses <https://www.southdevon.ac.uk/>
- **Learn Devon** <https://www.learndevon.co.uk/>

Higher Education (HE)

In the UK, you need to apply for university through a website called UCAS: <https://www.ucas.com/> The following link explains how to apply: <https://www.ucas.com/applying>



University of Plymouth

The University of Plymouth, located in Britain's Ocean City, is renowned for its world-class teaching, impactful research, and commitment to sustainability. With a diverse and inclusive community, it welcomes students from around the globe, fostering cultural exchange and collaboration. Plymouth offers a vibrant campus life and a wide range of programs designed to prepare students for a global future, combining practical learning with a supportive, welcoming environment.

Search for undergraduate / postgraduate courses and research opportunities here:

<https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/study>



Open University

The Open University offers flexible distance-learning courses and other accessible options for study to students of all backgrounds. Designed to fit around work and life commitments, it provides a wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate courses, along with tailored support for diverse learning needs. Its inclusive approach empowers students to upskill, retrain, or achieve qualifications at their own pace.

Search for courses here: <https://www.open.ac.uk/>





University
of Exeter

University of Exeter

The University of Exeter, a top UK institution, offers a full range of undergraduate,

postgraduate, and research opportunities. With students from 140+ countries, it fosters a vibrant, inclusive environment through cultural festivals, international societies, and language programs. Exeter University values diversity as a catalyst for innovation and creativity, recognising that a multicultural community promotes a deeper understanding of global issues and prepares students to become global citizens.



Search for undergraduate / postgraduate courses and research opportunities here:

<https://www.exeter.ac.uk/study/>

Support for International Students

The University of Exeter offers a wide range of dedicated teams, support schemes, and initiatives to help international students feel welcome and ensure their experience is rewarding and successful.

- Wellbeing support: <https://www.exeter.ac.uk/students/wellbeing/devon/support/for-all/international/>
- Practical advice from the Students' Guild: <https://www.exeterguild.com/kb#International>
- International Student Advice and International Student Experience teams: <https://www.exeter.ac.uk/students/international/>
- Intercultural Café: <https://www.exeter.ac.uk/students/international/getinvolved/interculturalcafe/>
- Academic English language skills development <https://www.exeter.ac.uk/students/english-language-skills/>
- International staff and post-graduate students network <https://www.exeter.ac.uk/departments/inclusion/groups/networks/isn/>



University of Exeter Students' Guild

The Guild is an independent, non-profit charity led by students and staff, working to ensure every student can make the most of their time at Exeter. Membership is free and automatic for all University of Exeter students.



Our events programme includes trips, movie nights, and social activities—whether you're an undergrad, postgrad, online learner, or based at Streatham or St Luke's, there's something for everyone.

Student voices shape everything we do. We amplify their views, support positive change, and create an inclusive space where all perspectives are respected.

Societies

With over 250 university societies to choose from (www.exeterguild.com/communities), our student-led groups are where students can make friends, have fun and connect over a shared interest or activity. All students are welcome to join any society, but we've highlighted a selection that may be of particular interest to international students:

African and Caribbean Society	Jordanian Society
Asian Society	Korean Society
Azerbaijani Society	Latin American Society
Bangla Society	Malaysian Society
Bulgarian Society	Middle Eastern and North African Society
Burmese Society	Moroccan Society
Chinese Society	Multicultural Students Society
Eastern European Society	Nooma Society
European Society	North American Society
Filipino Society	Orthodox Christian Society
Friends of Palestine Society	Pakistani Society
Greek and Cypriot Society	Polish Society
Hong Kong Public Affairs and Social Services	Russian Society
Hindu Society	Saudi Society
Indian Society - INSA	Scandinavian Society
Indonesian Society	Singapore Society
International Athlete Society	South African Society
International Student Society	South Asian Society
Iraqi Society	Student Action for Refugees (STAR) Society
Irish and Northern Irish Society	Students of Colour Association
Islamic Society	Turkish Society
Israeli and Zionist Society	Ukrainian Society
Japanese Society	Vietnamese Society
Jewish Society	

Guidance and support provided by the Guild:

We offer free, confidential, and impartial in-person or online advice related to students' housing, course or finances. Access advice on issues such as academic problems, finances, housing:

www.exeterguild.com/find-support

Website: www.exeterguild.com

Social Media: @exeterguild

Email: info@exeterguild.com

Opportunities to get involved: www.exeterguild.com/get-involved



The Universities of Sanctuary team at Exeter

As part of the University of Sanctuary network, a UK-wide initiative, the University of Exeter Sanctuary team work to foster a culture of welcome and inclusion for asylum seekers and refugees – including offering sanctuary scholarships and partial fee waivers to undergraduate students who are seeking asylum. These scholarships are competitive, so if you are interested in applying, it is a good idea to apply well in advance of your course.



Website: <https://www.exeter.ac.uk/departments/inclusion/support/uos/>

Universities of Sanctuary Network: <https://universities.cityofsanctuary.org/>

Exeter sanctuary scholarships: <https://www.exeter.ac.uk/study/funding/award/?id=2750>



Housing



District council support

In Devon, the District and City Councils manage local social housing and provide advice and support with finding a home, dealing with landlords and for anyone facing homelessness.

By law in the UK, your local council must provide you with emergency accommodation if you have a priority need. For example, if you are pregnant if you have a disability; if you are suffering from trauma because of your experiences

East Devon District Council

<https://eastdevon.gov.uk/housing-and-homelessness/> | phone: 01395 517469

Exeter City Council <https://exeter.gov.uk/housing/> | phone: 01392 277888

Mid Devon District Council

<https://www.middevon.gov.uk/residents/mid-devon-housing/> | phone: 01884 255255

North Devon Council <https://www.northdevon.gov.uk/housing> | phone: 01271 388870

South Hams District Council <https://www.southhams.gov.uk/housing> | phone: 01803 861234

Teignbridge Council <https://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/housing/> | phone: 01626 361101

Torridge District Council <https://www.torridge.gov.uk/housing> | phone: 01237 428700.

West Devon Borough Council <https://www.westdevon.gov.uk/housing> | phone: 01822 813600

Other sources of support with housing



Shelter - A UK charity that provides help for anyone facing a housing problem.

<https://england.shelter.org.uk/>



Refugees at Home - connect hosts with refugees and asylum seekers across the UK

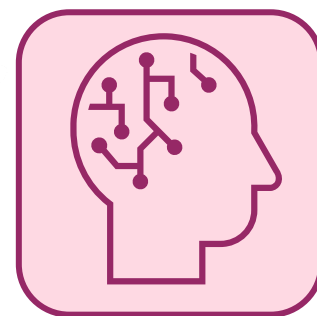
<https://refugeesathome.org/>



British Red Cross - <https://www.redcross.org.uk/get-help/get-help-as-a-refugee>

Neurodiversity

The word Neurodiversity refers to the diverse experience of all people and the many different ways in which we experience and interact with the worlds. However, it is often used in the context of the autistic spectrum and other neurological conditions such as ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) or learning disabilities.



Devon County Council's SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) local offer

signposts a wide range of locally available support.

Website: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/education-and-families/send-local-offer/about-send-and-the-local-offer/>



South West Autism Support Services

specialise in supporting children and young people on the autistic spectrum

Website: <https://www.southwestautismsupport.com/>



North Devon Down Syndrome Group

supports families from all walks of life who have a family member with Down Syndrome. Organises outings and activities - bringing families together for support and to have fun.

Website: https://devonconnect.org/profile/lynn_646

Email: lynnashman@live.com



WayMakers Devon CIC

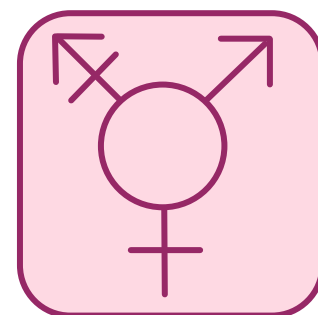
Solution-focused support for autistic and ADHD people without significant learning needs (aged 14+) to build accessible and fulfilling lives. Also works with employers and professionals to improve accessibility and neuroinclusion. Works across Devon and beyond.

Website: <https://waymakers.co.uk/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WayMakersDevon/>



LGBTQ+



Supporting lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans+ people across the SouthWest
Registered Charity Number 1171877

Intercom Trust

A Southwest charity providing LGBT+ communities with advocacy, low-cost counselling, domestic abuse services, training / consultancy, and general support. Combating homophobia and transphobia across Cornwall, Devon, Plymouth, and Torbay to promote respect and equality.

Website: www.intercomtrust.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheIntercomTrust



Micro Rainbow

Working towards a world where LGBTQ+ people are free from discrimination and have equal opportunities in all fields of life. Provides safe housing for LGBTQ+ asylum seekers; supports

refugees through employment, education, volunteering and training programs; and runs social activities to combat isolation.

Website: <https://microrainbow.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MicroRainbowInternational>



Sunrise Diversity

Sunrise Diversity provides support for LGBTQ+ people. See page 29 for more information and contact details.

Women's Support



CoLab Women

Supports women facing multiple disadvantages, particularly homelessness, domestic abuse, sexual violence and other challenges.

CoLab Women uses a trauma-informed, strength-based approach to rebuild resilience, confidence, and self-esteem. Brave Spaces is a two-year test and learn project supporting women facing these issues.

Website: <https://www.colabexeter.org.uk/colab-women>



THE OLIVE PROJECT

The Olive Project

The Olive Project works with black and minoritized women and girls who are subjected to abuse and violence, and to support them to live free from harm. For more information, see page 24.

Wave Wahines CIC



A surf club with the Aloha spirit, offering a safe space for women and girls from all backgrounds and lived experiences to access surfing and connect with our oceans. Also run bespoke sessions for resettled communities and women recovering from trauma.

Website: www.wavewahines.co.uk

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/NDwavewahines>



Physical Health



In the UK, your GP (General Practitioner) is your first point of contact for health concerns and can refer you to specialists if needed. For help finding and registering with a GP, visit <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/gps/how-to-register-with-a-gp-surgery/> and for NHS services in Devon, see <https://myhealth-devon.nhs.uk/>

Below are additional national and local organisations offering health and wellbeing support.

Public Health (Devon County Council)

Public Health is a team within Devon County Council responsible for Health Improvement, Health Protection, Healthcare Public Health. We are supported by public health Intelligence, policy and research in everything we do. We work in partnership with other health and local authority partners to achieve this such as social care, UK Health Security Agency, Office of Health Improvement and Disparities, NHS, district councils, VCSE partners amongst many others. Public Health has a Public Health Grant from the Department of Health and Social Care which allows the team to commission and deliver programmes of work to improve the health of the population. We commission services for public health nursing, sexual health, drug and alcohol services and a variety of training offers for staff.

Here are a few of the many initiatives we facilitate by working with partners:

- **Together – Exeter** – alcohol and drugs recovery program <https://www.waythrough.org.uk/find-support-near-me/together/>
- **Devon Sexual Health** – contraception, HIV care, abortion services, testing, PrEP, support for victims of sexual assault, and other services <https://www.devonsexualhealth.nhs.uk/>
- **Public Health Nursing** – nursing hubs, home visits, school nursing, services for vulnerable children, young people and families, texting information service <https://www.devon.gov.uk/children-families-education/child-family-support/health/public-health-nursing/>



Vaccinations

Are you and your family protected?

Vaccinations are one of the best ways to protect yourself, your family, and your community from serious illnesses like flu, meningitis, measles, mumps and polio. In the UK, all routine vaccines are free for everyone.



Book an appointment with your GP practice to review your vaccination history and discuss any additional vaccines you might need. If you're unsure which vaccines you or your family have received, don't worry — you can safely restart the schedule.

Scan the QR code to learn more about vaccinations on the official NHS website.

Vaccines help protect what matters most

- **Illnesses like measles and whooping cough spread easily** between children who are not vaccinated.
- **Check your child's red book or speak to your GP surgery** to see if they have missed any vaccines.

Check
**your child's
vaccines** are
up to date

Scan
the code
for more
information



STAY STRONG. GET VACCINATED.



The Eddystone Trust

Southwest-based charity supporting Devon residents with sexual health and HIV services. Offers rapid HIV and syphilis testing, help accessing sexual health screenings, and resources like condoms, PrEP, and PEP. Advocates for those living with HIV, offering peer support, guidance around diagnosis, and non-judgmental, person-centred care.



- Website:** Eddystone.org.uk
 - Phone:** 08003283508.
 - Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/TheEddystoneTrust/>
-

Mental Health and Wellbeing

If you are experiencing mental ill-health and looking for support, please start by talking to your doctor. Your doctor may refer you to specialist support. There are also a number of organisations and projects that offer mental health support to asylum seekers, refugees and migrant workers



National Support



Barnado's Helplines

Barnardo's offers several mental health and wellbeing helplines for ethnically diverse

communities. All helplines are available Monday to Friday, 10am-8pm, and Saturday, 10am-3pm.



- **Boloh Helpline:** Support for adult asylum seekers and HK British nationals. Offers advice, signposting, emotional support, and 8 free therapy sessions. Call **0800 151 2605** (languages available, with interpreters) or use webchat at <https://helpline.barnados.org.uk/> or email boloh.helpline@barnados.org.uk
- **Refugee Family Helpline:** Emotional and practical support, advice and signposting for families seeking sanctuary in the UK. Call **0808 156 8777** or email refugeefamilyhelpline@barnados.org.uk
- **Hong Kong Helpline:** Referrals for therapy, counselling, youth space, peer support, family space, and webinars for HK British nationals. Call **0808 169 1671** or email HongKong@barnados.org.uk (English and Cantonese).
- **Ukrainian Support Helpline:** Therapy, advice, and practical support for Ukrainian refugees. Call **0800 148 8586** (English, Ukrainian, Russian) or email ukrainiansupport@barnados.org.uk



Migrant Right's Network

is a national network offering advice and guidance on mental health, on what support is available and how to access it.

<https://migrantsrights.org.uk/resources/know-your-rights/mental-health/>





British Red Cross: Support for Afghans

Mental health assessment, advocacy and support for Afghans already living in England who worked to assist the British Armed Forces between Oct 2001 – Aug 2021, as well as their families. Staff speak English, Dari and Pashto. To contact support, call 02033177979, email afghanservice@candi.nhs.uk or visit <https://londonveteranservice.nhs.uk/warm-welcome-afghan-service>



Royal College of Psychiatrists

Mental health information packs for patients and carers translated into 29 languages <https://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/mental-health/translations>



Child Bereavement UK: Ukrainian Packs

Child bereavement resources in Ukrainian <https://www.childbereavementuk.org/Listing/Category/resources-in-ukrainian>



Mental Health Foundation

Resources for refugees and asylum seekers translated into multiple languages including Pashto, Dari, Arabic Ukrainian.

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/our-work/programmes/refugees/resources>



Solace

Video resources to help refugees and asylum seekers arriving in the UK understand and cope with mental challenges they may face, such as stress, PTSD, difficulty sleeping and lack of confidence. There are also exercises designed to help manage the effects of stress and trauma. These resources are available in English, Albanian, Farsi, Kurdish Sorani, Pashto or Tigrinya <https://www.solace-uk.org.uk/training/helpful-resources-for-refugees-and-people-seeking-safety>



Devon-Based Support



NHS Mental Health Support

The NHS offers guidance and a range of different links for anyone experiencing mental ill-health.

<https://www.dpt.nhs.uk/>



Talkworks

Devon's NHS Talking Therapies Service. A free, confidential, service, part of [NHS Talking Therapies](#), for people (aged 18+) in Devon (excluding Plymouth). <https://www.talkworks.dpt.nhs.uk/>



Livewell SW

Offers a specialist service for anyone living in the Plymouth area. Dedicated to supporting the health and mental health needs of asylum seekers and those who have sought refuge in the UK. <https://www.livewellsouthwest.co.uk/project/asylum-seekers-refugees-mental-health-team>



Ubuntu Counselling Services

(see page 31) Ubuntu Counselling offers a holistic counselling service for Black and Minority Ethnic Communities in Devon.



CEETCIC

Community Environmental Educational Therapy CIC (CEETCIC) offers support, for the health of people and the planet, through community, art, activity, environmental and wellbeing projects. CEETCIC believes that immersing ourselves in nature, learning how to help our planet, being part of our communities, and being active are valuable ways of developing skills, friendships, confidence, happiness, and self-esteem. Works with schools, refugees, and over 55s.



Email: sarah@ceetcic.com

Website: www.ceetcic.co.uk

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CEETCIC/>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/ceet_uk/?img_index=1



The Gardeners Collective CIC

The Gardeners Collective in North Devon connects people with nature through gardening, offering sessions for families, beginners, workplaces, and the general community. <https://thegardenerscollective.co.uk/>



Carer Support



Devon Carers

Devon Carers is a free service by Westbank commissioned by Devon County Council and NHS Devon. If you provide unpaid support for an adult living in Devon (excluding Plymouth and Torbay) who needs help because they are ill, frail, disabled or have a mental health or addiction problem, then you can access free support in your caring role.



We treat each carer as an individual, taking time to find out what's important to them, and work out together how we can support them in their caring role. Services include a helpline, webchat, workshops, peer support groups, hospital services, carer assessments, carers passport, sitting service, website and quarterly magazine.



To find support, contact 03456 434 435, email info@devoncarers.org.uk or visit devoncarers.org.uk. Helpline hours: Mon-Fri 8am-6pm, Sat 9am-1pm.



Families in Grief

Our vision is to build a community where children, young people, and families are supported to understand, express, and move through grief with compassion, connection, and hope. We provide a combination of:



- One-to-one support
- Group programmes
- Family days and support for parents and carers
- Resources and support for professionals, schools, and community groups
- Bereavement training

Families in Grief is a secular charity that offers support to people of all backgrounds, with an approach that strives to be inclusive of all religions and beliefs.

Email: info@familiesingrief.org

Phone: 01271 447960

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FamiliesInGrief>

Website: <https://familiesingrief.org/>

Address: Families in Grief, Castle Lodge, North Walk, Barnstaple EX31 1DF

Policing and Community Engagement



Contacting the police and other emergency services

Emergencies:

In an emergency dial 999 and ask for the service you need: the Police, the Fire and Rescue Service or the Ambulance service.

Non-Emergencies:

For non-emergency situations, you can report issues online or by calling 101. Use this service for incidents that don't require an immediate police response, such as stolen items, property damage, civil disputes, suspected drug activity, antisocial behaviour, or other non-urgent enquiries. This helps keep emergency lines free for serious situations.

You can find more guidance here: [How to report | Police.uk](https://www.police.uk)



Devon and Cornwall Police Diverse Communities Team (DCT)

The Devon and Cornwall Police Diverse Communities Team (DCT) is a small team of specialist officers and staff who focus on maintaining and developing confidence in the police, working to ensure community cohesion. It supports local officers in understanding the needs of people with protected characteristics and ensuring that we work with our diverse communities to protect the vulnerable and reduce the risk of harm.



We work to achieve the following aims:

- engagement with people with protected characteristics and from diverse backgrounds to create and maintain trust
- reduce risk to vulnerable people and promote community cohesion through our work with partner agencies
- increase awareness and reporting of hate crime
- reduce the re-victimisation of hate crime victims
- champion the Devon and Cornwall Police Equality Objectives (including reducing violence against women and girls)

We cover all of Devon and Cornwall and can be contacted for non-urgent enquiries Monday to Friday by email using the addresses below. **Please note that in an emergency, people should telephone 999/101 or contact via the Devon & Cornwall Police website instead.**

Website: devon-cornwall.police.uk

Contact (for non-urgent enquiries):

Diversity Cornwall CIOSDiversity@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

Diversity Devon DiversityDevon@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

Diversity Plymouth DiversityPlymouth@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk



Devon and Cornwall Community Scrutiny Panel



The Devon and Cornwall Community Scrutiny Panel is an independent, volunteer-led initiative dedicated to fostering trust and transparency between local communities and Devon & Cornwall Police. The Panel comprises diverse members from across Devon, Cornwall, and the Isles of Scilly, all committed to ensuring fair and accountable policing practices.

Key Activities:

- Monthly online meetings to scrutinise D&C Police body-worn video footage related to local Stop & Search and Use of Force incidents.
- Assessment of police data to identify areas of disproportionality and recommend improvements.
- Providing feedback to police officers, highlighting best practices and addressing areas of concern.
- Offering free training opportunities to enhance public understanding of policing.
- Serving as an independent point of contact for community members to raise concerns about policing practices.

Get Involved:

Individuals aged 16 and above, residing in the region and not currently serving in policing roles (or within the past three years), are welcome to join. No prior experience is required, and free training is provided. All meetings and communications are conducted online to support sustainability goals.

Email: admin@dccspanel.org.uk

Website: www.dccspanel.org.uk

Facebook: facebook.com/dccspanel

Instagram: instagram.com/dccspanel

LinkedIn: linkedin.com/company/dccs-panel

Section 3: Local Authority Specialist Services



Devon County Council Migration and Resettlement Team

M&R was launched in September 2022, bringing together a wide range of skills, experience, and expertise within the council, with a focus on developing a more integrated, long-term and holistic approach to supporting refugees, asylum seekers and other migrants resident in Devon. There are several strands to our work:

Resettlement oversees the local implementation of UK Government Resettlement programmes from countries including Syria and Afghanistan. We also provide support and assistance to Community Sponsorship Groups who are seeking to welcome a resettled family into their local community. refugeeresettlement@devon.gov.uk

Community Bridging supports families and individuals resettling in Devon. We offer assistance with health and wellbeing, understanding cultural differences, finding community resources, education, employment and parenting. We also support people without recourse to public funds. communitybridgingteam@devon.gov.uk

Homes for Ukraine works together with District partners to ensure a safe and welcoming environment for those leaving Ukraine and moving to the UK. This includes maintaining the Government's database for the Homes for Ukraine scheme, completing DBS checks, and assisting guests, sponsors and districts with any queries. ukraineresettlement@devon.gov.uk

ESOL and Community Engagement works with ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) providers from all sectors. We map and signpost classes, provide expert advice and support, offer networking and professional development opportunities for teachers, and maintain an ESOL resource hub. The other strand of our work is focused on improving information sharing and encouraging collaboration. ESOL@devon.gov.uk

Supporting People Seeking Asylum. M&R works as part of a wider collaboration to support adults and children living in Devon who are seeking asylum. Our focus includes safeguarding, school admissions, employment support, ESOL, wellbeing and day to day living. Further information: Kristian.Tomblin@devon.gov.uk

To find out more about Migration and Resettlement, visit our webpages at:
<https://www.devon.gov.uk/migration-and-resettlement/>



Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Team



The Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Team supports Devon County Council to be an inclusive employer and service provider and to meet its legal duties under the Equality Act 2010.

We oversee the County Council's EDI Action Plan and provide a range of policies, guidance and learning opportunities to ensure best practice. If you are unhappy about a service you receive from the Council and you think this is because of discrimination, you can contact us here: www.devon.gov.uk/equality/reportincidents. You can also contact us if you have other feedback about the County Council in relation to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.

Website: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/equality/> **Email:** equality@devon.gov.uk

District Council Support

Some of these teams were originally established specifically to support arriving Ukrainians but now offer support to other refugees in the area.

East Devon

Website: <https://eastdevon.gov.uk/housing-and-homelessness/resettlement-projects/what-is-homes-for-ukraine-scheme/#:~:text=This%20scheme%20is%20open%20to,to%20come%20to%20the%20UK.>
Email: homesforukrainesupport@eastdevon.gov.uk



Exeter City

Website: <https://exeter.gov.uk/useful-information-for-ukrainian-refugees/>
Email: Ukraine@exeter.gov.uk



North Devon

Website: <https://www.northdevon.gov.uk/housing/refugee-support>
Email: HomesforUkraineND@northdevon.gov.uk



Mid-Devon

Website: <https://www.middevon.gov.uk/residents/ukrainian-refugees-in-mid-devon/>
Email: refugeehelp@middevon.gov.uk



Teignbridge

Website: <https://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/community-and-people/people/refugees/>
Email: housingoptions@teignbridge.gov.uk



Torridge

Website: <https://www.torridge.gov.uk/article/20827/Support-For-Ukrainian-Refugees-Torridge-Council-Information-Page>

Email: HomesForUkraine@torridge.gov.uk



West Devon and South Hams

Website: <https://www.westdevon.gov.uk/communities/we-stand-ukraine>

Email: supportforukraine@swdevon.gov.uk



Torbay

Website: <https://www.torbay.gov.uk/leisure-sports-and-community/essential-information-for-ukrainian-guests/>

Email: RefugeeSupport@torbay.gov.uk



Plymouth City

Website: <https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/inclusion-and-community-cohesion>



Section 4: Forums and Networks

There are a number of networks and forums in Devon and the South West that regularly bring together people from different organisations and communities; to share information, identify and discuss issues and explore opportunities for collaboration.



Devon County Council (DCC) ESOL Network

DCC's ESOL and Engagement Team have built a network of contacts with ESOL practitioners around Devon. Participants receive regular newsletters and we also organise training workshops and networking events to allow local ESOL teachers to meet and to share ideas.

If you would like to be a part of our network and receive newsletters and invites to events, please email ESOL@devon.gov.uk



South West ESOL Network (SW Councils)

South West Councils hosts the South West Strategic Migration Partnership (SW SMP) which supports migrants at local, regional, and national levels. The SW SMP has a dedicated ESOL Coordinator who works to improve and increase ESOL provision and supports practitioners with training, resources, and professional development.

The SW SMP runs a well-established online ESOL Network, a community for practitioners to network, share resources, and receive updates on policies and best practices. The Network meets several times a year and features specialist presentations from ESOL practitioners and organisations.

The South West Council also runs other regional networks including the UASC Forum, SW HKBNO Welcome Hub, the Ukraine Network and more.

For more information and to join the ESOL Network and receive ESOL specific monthly email newsletters with upcoming events, online programmes, teaching and learning resources, funded offers, and more please contact info@swcouncils.gov.uk



NATECLA South West Branch

NATECLA (National Association for Teaching English and Community Languages to Adults) is one of the UK's leading experts on ESOL. In 2025, a South West branch has been launched, offering networking opportunities, access to free teaching and learning resources, invitations to free, monthly professional development workshops. Organisational and individual membership options are available.



To find out more about what NATECLA offer and details of how to become a member, visit <https://www.natecla.org.uk/>



Devon Faith and Belief Forum

Working together to promote better understanding and good relations between our communities. Devon Faith and Belief Forum brings together people from different faith and belief traditions to build a better society through promoting good relations, encouraging better understanding, and developing stronger bonds between our communities.



Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100068326294371>

Website: <https://devonfaiths.org.uk/>

Complete our Contact Form to get in touch: <https://devonfaiths.org.uk/contact-dfbf/>

Equality Reference Group

Our Equality Reference Group supports the County Council's work on equality and diversity by providing advice, feedback, ideas, and scrutiny. It symbolises the partnership of Devon County Council with the local community in its commitment to equality and includes members from various local organisations pressing for change. Equality Reference Group members from the voluntary and community sector are independent of the County Council, and Service Level Agreements are in place.



See more information on the website below or use the email address below to contact us.

Contact: equality@devon.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/equality/our-commitment/equality-reference-group>



Migrant Champions Network

The Migrant Champions Network is a network of local councillors from across the UK, and across different political parties, working together to fight for the rights of all migrants. The network aims to ensure that local communities have the resources they need to build strong connections and make the case for change. We exist to support the brilliant work being done by local councillors, Migrant Champions and others, to support migrant constituents and fight for the rights of all people who have moved to the UK, whether they moved by choice or by force. The network organises quarterly meetings, provides resources and trainings, and supports members to work with migrant constituents.



The network is non-party political, and is funded by the Oak Foundation (<https://oakfnd.org/>).

Contact: To find out more about the network, please don't hesitate to email us on info@migrantchampionsnetwork.org

Website: <https://migrantchampionsnetwork.org/home>

Police Community Reference Group

The Police Community Reference Group is a forum chaired by the Commander for each of the three geographical areas across Devon. The Commander and their Senior Management Team meet with members of the diverse communities they serve, to seek feedback and views on a range of policing matters, and to understand the impact which changes in policing practices may have across different sections of the community. This forum is supported by the Diverse Communities Team and the Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Team.

Email contacts:

Diversity Cornwall: CIOSDiversity@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

Diversity Devon: DiversityDevon@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

Diversity Plymouth: DiversityPlymouth@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk



Refugee & Asylum Seekers Network (RAN)

A local network, bringing together organisations working to support asylum seekers and refugees in the Plymouth area. **Email Jabo Butera** jabo@dbi.org.uk

South West Peninsula Inclusion and Ethnic Diversity Group for Social Workers

This is a regional networking group for local authority social workers across the South West including Plymouth, Torbay, Cornwall and Devon. Each authority has agreed to encourage and support attendance of social workers who are from an ethnic diversity group.

There is an opportunity to discuss and share experiences for those social workers who identify as being from an ethnic diversity group. This can include the opportunity to explore challenges and common issues which can be faced by social workers. There is also the ability to share any key messages with Local Authority representatives.

If you have any questions about the group please email DevProf@plymouth.gov.uk who will be able to answer your question or link you to a member of the group who can.

Section 5: Cultural Calendar 2025/26

This calendar identifies some of the international, national and local religious and cultural events and activities that will be taking place over the next year; opportunities for people to come together; to learn more about different cultures; to join in with cultural celebrations and/or to focus on particular culturally related issues.

December 2025		
18 th	International Migrants' Day	https://www.un.org/en/observances/migrants-day An annual opportunity to celebrate the positive contributions of migrants to societies around the world.
14 th to 22 nd	Hanukkah	https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/when-is-hanukkah-in-2023-2024-2025-2026-and-2027/
25 th	Christmas Day	Christian festival celebrating the birth of Jesus and a secular family holiday celebrated by both Christians and non-Christians
31 st	New Year's Eve/Hogmanay	A worldwide festival to mark the arrival of a New Year

January 2026		
7 th	Christmas Day	For Orthodox Christians
18 th	World Religion Day	https://nationaltoday.com/world-religion-day/
19 th	Martin Luther King Day	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martin_Luther_King_Jr._Day
25 th	Burns Night	A celebration of the life and poetry of Scottish poet Robert Burns. https://www.scotland.org/events/burns-night
27 th	Holocaust Memorial Day - 2025 Theme: For a better future	https://hmd.org.uk/take-part-in-holocaust-memorial-day/

February 2026		
Whole Month	LGBT+ History Month	https://lgbtplushistorymonth.co.uk/badge-comp/
14 th	St Valentine's Day	International celebration of love. https://www.history.com/topics/valentines-day/history-of-valentines-day-2 .
17 th	Lunar New Year	https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/uk/lunar-new-year
17 th	Ramadan – probable start date for 2026	Fasting month. Observance of Ramadan is one of the 5 pillars of Islam https://ing.org/resources/for-all-groups/calendar-of-important-islamic-dates/ramadan-information-sheet/
21 st	Lunar New Year Celebrations: Year of the Horse	12.00pm-4.00pm at Exeter Phoenix, Gandy Street, EX4 3LS Organised by Hongkongers in Devon (see page 18) Interested parties can email hkersindevon@gmail.com

March 2026		
Whole Month	Women's History Month	https://womenforwomen.org.uk/womens-history-month-calendar
1 st	St David's Day	National day for Wales https://www.visitwales.com/info/history-heritage-and-traditions/have-happy-st-davids-day-celebration
3 rd	Magha Puja (aka "Fourfold Assembly Day")	Celebration of Buddha's teachings https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/buddhist/magha-puja
3 rd /4 th	Holi	Holi Hindu festival of colours. Find out about local celebrations: https://www.exeterhcc.org/event
8 th	International Women's Day	https://www.internationalwomensday.com/IWD2026
15 th	Mothering Sunday ("Mother's Day")	https://www.arenaflowers.com/blogs/news/the-history-of-mother-s-day/
17 th	Shrove Tuesday ("Pancake Day" aka "Mardi Gras").	https://www.historic-uk.com/CultureUK/Pancake-Day/
17 th	St Patrick's Day	A celebration of Irish culture https://www.ireland.com/en-gb/things-to-do/themes/culture/st-patricks-day/
19 th /20 th	Eid-ul Fitr	Islamic festival to mark the end of Ramadan https://www.calendardate.com/eid_al_fitr_2026.htm
21 st	Kurdish Newroz	New Year – celebration of Spring for Kurdish communities https://thekurdishproject.org/history-and-culture/kurdish-culture/kurdish-newroz/ The Kurdish Community (see page 20) will be organising a celebration in Exeter

April 2026		
1 st	April Fool's Day	https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/general-english/magazine-zone/april-fools-day
2 nd to 8 th	Passover	A major Jewish festival that celebrates the Biblical story of the Israelites' escape from slavery in Egypt. https://reformjudaism.org/jewish-holidays/passover/passover-history
5 th & 6 th	Easter Sunday Easter Monday	Easter, a Christian festival commemorating the resurrection of Jesus from the dead Easter Monday, the 2 nd day of Easter, known as Bright Monday in the Eastern Orthodox Church
14 th	Vaisakhi	Festival which celebrates the founding of the Sikh community, the Khalsa , in 1699. It was originally a harvest festival in the Punjab until it became Sikhism's most important festival. https://www.sikhnet.com/news/vaisakhi-biggest-sikh-celebration
22 nd	Stephen Lawrence Day	National https://stephenlawrenceday.org/ was inaugurated in 2019 to celebrate the short life and legacy of Stephen Lawrence, who was killed in a racist attack at just 18 years old.
23 rd	St George's Day	National day for England. A truly multicultural saint, St George is the patron saint of England, Georgia, Venice, Genoa, Portugal, Ethiopia and Catalonia

May 2026		
Whole month	Local and Community History month	Trips, library exhibitions and local lectures https://www.history.org.uk/historian/resource/1567/local-and-community-history-month
1 st	Wesak Buddha's birthday	https://www.britannica.com/topic/Wesak
1 st	Beltane (May Day)	The Gaelic May Day festival, marking the start of Summer
9 th	Europe Day	Europe Day is a day to celebrate peace and unity throughout Europe. https://european-union.europa.eu/principles-countries-history/symbols/europe-day_en
11 th to 17 th	Mental Health Awareness Week	A week during which events are held to highlight issues around mental health. https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/our-work/public-engagement/mental-health-awareness-week
25 th	Late Spring Bank Holiday (Whit Monday)	The Whitsun weekend was traditionally a time for fairs, Morris dancing and parades with brass bands
27 th (tentative)	Eid al-Adha	One of the holiest days in Islam, Eid al-Adha commemorates Ibrahim's (Abraham's) willingness to sacrifice his son for God, marked by prayers, charity, and community gatherings

June 2026		
6 th and 7 th	Exeter Respect Festival 2026: All Different, All Equal	The largest celebration of diversity in the South West. Now in its 29 th year. https://www.exeter-respect.org/
15 th to 21 st	Refugee Week 2026: Courage	https://refugeeweek.org.uk/theme-refugee-week-2026-courage/
16 th to 17 th (expected)	Islamic New Year	The start of the New Year 1447 in the Islamic calendar
20 th	Dragon Boat Festival	1.30pm to 4.30pm Wonford Community Centre, Wonford, EX2 6NF Organised by Hongkongers in Devon (see page 18) Interested parties can email hkersindevon@gmail.com
21 st	Summer Solstice	Midsummer, the longest day of the year and a pagan festival https://stonehengefestivals.co.uk/
22 nd	Windrush Day	A day to honour the contributions of migrants to life in the UK.. Specifically, it celebrates Afro-Caribbeans who began arriving on the HMT Empire Windrush in 1948 https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cdp-2025-0125/

July 2026		
1 st to 31 st	South Asian Heritage Month	The start of a month-long celebration of South Asian heritage and culture https://southasianheritage.org.uk/south-asian-heritage-month/about-sahm/
23 rd	Birthday of Emperor Haile Selassie	Rastafarian celebration of the birthday of Hailie Selassie https://ethiopiancrown.org/biography-emperor-haile-selassie-i/

August 2026		
13 th to 16 th	Obon	Obon (also known as Bon festival) is an important Zen Buddhist festival in Japan – a commemoration of ancestors https://www.japansociety.org.uk/resource?resource=48
23 rd	International day for the remembrance of the slave trade	https://www.unesco.org/en/days/slave-trade-remembrance

September 2026		
8 th to 15 th (dates may vary)	Paryushan	The most important holy festival for Jains – an 8 day festival focusing on new beginnings https://oshwal.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Insights%20Into%20Paryushan%20-%20By%20Kishor%20B%20Shah.pdf
14 th to 20 th	National Inclusion Week (Inclusive Employers)	https://www.inclusiveemployers.co.uk/national-inclusion-week/ dedicated to celebrating inclusion and taking action to create inclusive workplaces
26 th	European Day of Languages	Council of Europe initiative to celebrate language and cultural diversity. Click here for ideas to celebrate the day: https://edl.ecml.at/
26 th	Mid-Autumn Festival To celebrate the full moon	1.30pm to 4.30pm Wonford Community Centre, Wonford, EX2 6NF Organised by Hongkongers in Devon (see page 18) Interested parties can email hkersindevon@gmail.com

October 2026		
Whole month	Black History Month	Annual awareness campaign to highlight African and Caribbean history and heritage, and the UK's diverse cultural heritage. A range of events to entertain and educate. https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/
1 st	National Poetry Day	https://nationalpoetryday.co.uk/about-npd/ – schools often ask children to prepare poems for lessons.
10 th	World Mental Health Day	Aims to raise awareness of mental health issues around the world and to mobilize efforts in support of mental health. https://www.who.int/campaigns/world-mental-health-day
21 st	International Pronouns Day	https://pronouns.org/day
31 st	Halloween	A festival with diverse origins (including Pagan and Christian traditions) that has become an important cultural festival in UK and USA

November 2026		
Whole month	Islamophobia Awareness Month	Islamophobia Awareness Month (IAM) is a campaign founded in 2012 by a group of Muslim organisations. It aims to showcase the positive contributions of Muslims as well as raise awareness of Islamophobia in society. https://www.islamophobia-awareness.org/
5 th	Guy Fawkes Night (aka "Bonfire Night")	https://www.britannica.com/topic/Guy-Fawkes-Day
8 th (dates vary)	Diwali	The Hindu festival of lights
8 th	Remembrance Sunday	A day to remember people killed or wounded in war. People often observe 2 minutes' silence starting at 11 am. https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/remembrance/remembrance-events/remembrance-sunday
9 th to 13 th	Anti-bullying Week	A nationwide initiative that highlights the issue of bullying and encourages individuals to take action against it. It emphasizes the importance of fostering a culture of respect and support, where bullying is not tolerated, and every person is valued. https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/
30 th	St Andrews Day	A day of celebration in Scotland. The thistle flower is associated with this day.