



**Bradford**  
**• AFRICAN COMMUNITY •**

Achieve Integration and Adaptation



**2022 to 2025**

**Engage Project**

# Impact Report



# Contents.

- 02** About this report
- 03** About Bradford African Community
- 04** About the Engage Project
- 05** Life in the UK
- 06** Academies
- 07** Engage... with communities
- 08** Public Activities
- 09** Engage in numbers
- 10** What people are saying about us
- 11** Our extended work
- 12** Further information

# About this report

The data and stories presented in this report reveal a compelling story of resilience and hope. Each visit for learning and support at the Bradford African Community centre represents an individual taking a step towards rebuilding their life after the challenges of displacement and hardship they have experienced before reaching safety in the UK.

Usually, each individual person has accessed our service multiple times, emphasising the crucial role that BAC plays in the refugee journey to adapt and thrive in British society.

The consistent engagement underscores the importance of providing a safe and supportive space where refugees can address the challenges they face, mainly language barriers, gaining new skills, and finding their place to contribute fully to Britain.

Read on to see what Bradford African Community get up to, explore some of the successes we have had, and see what people think about our work.

**THANK YOU!**

# About Bradford African Community

## Our Vision

We passionately believe in integrity, trustworthiness, accountability and hard work. Based on our well structured processes, we aim to have full participation in the UK Society from our African refugees because we know that leaving your home country can be overwhelming but we will succeed when we properly integrate into the community of Bradford and live a normal life.

## Our Mission

To develop the capacity and skills of the members of the African, Refugee and other disadvantaged communities settling in Bradford and Yorkshire, in such a way that they are better able to identify and help meet their needs, and participate more fully in society.

## Our Values

Integrity

Trustworthiness

Accountability

Passion



# About the Engage Project

The Engage Project is funded by the National Lottery Community Fund and was set up to help refugees and migrants adapt and integrate into British society.

Refugees and migrants are assisted in overcoming language and cultural barriers and creating the best possible homes for them and their families.

Through this project, Bradford African Community recruited 4 members of staff, and engaged 4 associates.

## The project in detail

*ESOL and English conversation for beginner courses*

Sewing, hairdressing and entrepreneurship training

Homework club (English and Math) for young people

Health and wellbeing workshops

Job search, and welfare advice drop-ins

Children First (Watoto Kwanza) project

# Life in the UK

As part of the Engage Project, we delivered Citizenship classes, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and English Conversation for Beginner courses as well as helping new arrivals with translation and interpreting.

**240**

ESOL classes

delivered to

attendees

**1672**



# 149

people supported  
through Citizenship  
classes, and workshops  
with West Yorkshire  
Police.



# Academies

We have delivered a number of other academies and training courses through the Engage Project, including:

Sewing Academy in partnership with Skills Network and Bradford College, enabling service users to gain the skills required to join the fabric and textile industries.



Hair Dressing Academy in partnership with Realise Training, enabling service users to go into the hair and beauty industry as well as make friends and interact with new people.

Entrepreneur Academy in partnership with Bradford University's Open Innovation Programme - supporting refugees with business ideas to develop their ideas and become self-employed.



# Engage... with communities

The Engage Project has seen us deliver Homework Clubs to young people who are experiencing language barriers, to enable them to improve their literacy and math skills.

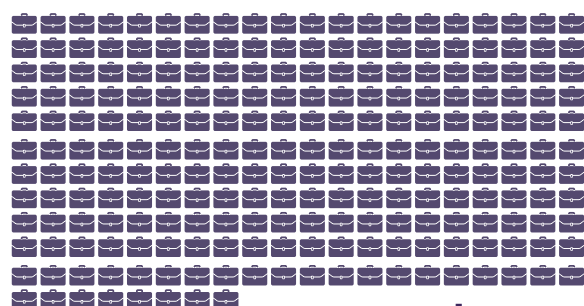
We have been able to deliver job search drop-ins for refugees to engage them in seeking employment. Some of our clients weren't able to access this at home, perhaps through lack of internet access or ICT literacy so this was vital for them.

Our dropping-in centre has served many individuals who were experiencing language barriers, and refugees, with welfare support, reading letters, coordinating special arrangements, housing issues, filling out forms and much more. No need for an appointment, they simply had to turn up and ask for help, and we delivered!

Working with health partners to deliver Health and Wellbeing workshops gave refugees and asylum seekers the opportunity to improve their health and connect with relevant services.

**108** homework sessions

**1005** children



**228** attendees at job search drop in's

**2750**

individuals have received drop-in advice and support on a range of issues impacting their lives



31 women and girls attended Zumba sessions



# Public Activities



# 540

**attendees at HAF  
cook-and-eat sessions**



**people came  
on trips and days  
out around the Bradford  
District.**



**480 refugees  
came with us on  
trips further away**

Bradford African Community, through the Engage Project, have been able to take part in numerous public events and activities.

This includes the Yorkshire Integration Festival, organised by Migration Yorkshire; UNIFY Festival organised by Bradford University; Refugee Week and Black History Month events!

We are also pleased to have been able to deliver the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme over Easter, Summer and Christmas holidays.

In conjunction with the Engage Project, this enabled us to deliver family cook-and-eat sessions, days out around the district, and trips to get to know the country (Leeds, Bridlington, Scarborough, Blackpool and beyond).

Young people from low income families (refugees) were able to take part in activities and events that promoted their physical and mental wellbeing, their development and their educational needs.

# Engage in numbers

## Job pathway support

228

People assisted

## Sewing academy sessions

87

875  
students

## Hair dressing courses

275  
lessons

## Watoto Kwanza (Children First)

360  
attendees at  
stay-and-play  
sessions



# What people are saying about us

**All is better. They still support me. Sometimes there are trips, sometimes family cooking. The children are happy coming here, me also.**

**BAC is at the forefront of every initiative whether it is to promote digital inclusion or pathways to create employment opportunities. They are a pioneer in meeting the diverse needs of our communities.**

**I am happy. Sometimes coming here and people help me. Asumani and Melat they still help me with all**

**BAC has worked hard in establishing a vibrant, user led organisation that can both meet the needs of its members and engage positively with the wider refugee sector and local community.**

# Our extended work



**Educational service**



**Sports activities and leisure activities**



**Volunteering opportunities**



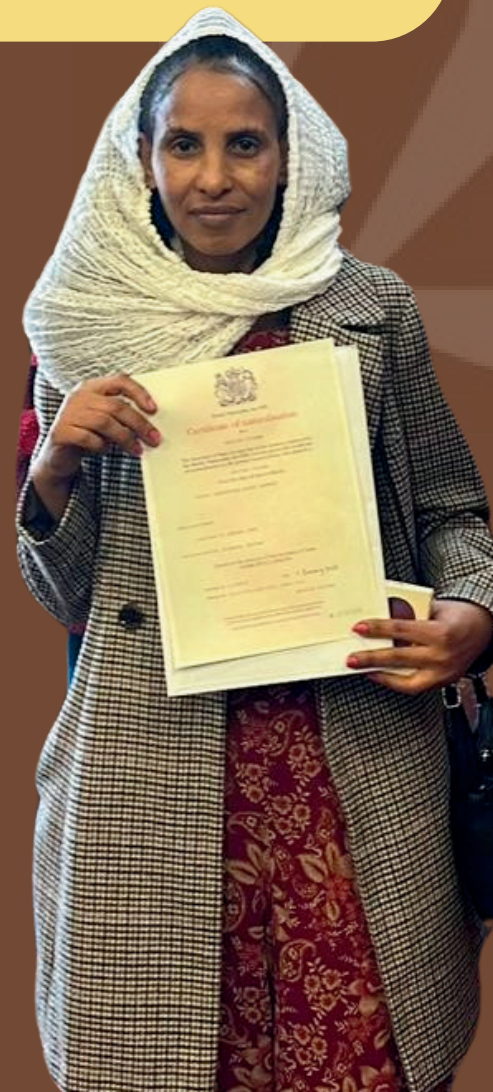
**Translation and interpretation services**



**Drop in sessions**



**Children play services**



**Bradford**  
**• AFRICAN COMMUNITY •**  
Achieve Integration and Adaptation



# Further information

You can find out more about what we do at our website [www.bradfordafrican.co.uk](http://www.bradfordafrican.co.uk).

Participants who took part in the Engage Project told their stories of belonging, resilience, growth and integration. Some of these can be heard at [www.bcbradio.co.uk/bhm](http://www.bcbradio.co.uk/bhm)

Watch a 30-minute documentary 'The Sanctuary Seekers of Bradford' following the lives of three Bradford residents, including BAC Founder, Asumani Susho. Watch it at [www.thesanctuaryseekers.com](http://www.thesanctuaryseekers.com)



Find us on YouTube to watch videos from our beneficiaries [www.youtube.com/@bradfordafricancommunity9936](http://www.youtube.com/@bradfordafricancommunity9936)

# Thank you

Thank you to all our partners and service users through the last few years. We hope to continue providing our valuable services for many years to come.

From all at the Bradford African Community



**Bradford**  
• AFRICAN COMMUNITY •  
Achieve Integration and Adaptation

## Contact Us



[www.bradfordafrican.co.uk](http://www.bradfordafrican.co.uk)



01274 722978



[info@bradfordafrican.co.uk](mailto:info@bradfordafrican.co.uk)

## Follow Us



[/beaccommunity](https://www.facebook.com/beaccommunity)



[@beaccommunity](https://twitter.com/beaccommunity)



[@bradfordafricancommunity9936](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9936)

Produced by  
Community Action  
Bradford & District



9 Russell Street, Bradford BD5 0JB