

Migration in the UK and Coventry: – MiFriendly Cities and Regions?

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Today's presentation

- Coventry – a City of Sanctuary and International City of Peace and Reconciliation
- The refugee crisis and the City's Response
- EU/UIA-funded MiFriendly Cities Regional Project
- CMF-funded Building Bridges
- Libraries as a key part of the support for Refugees and Newly Arrived Communities
- Some remaining challenges



Coventry

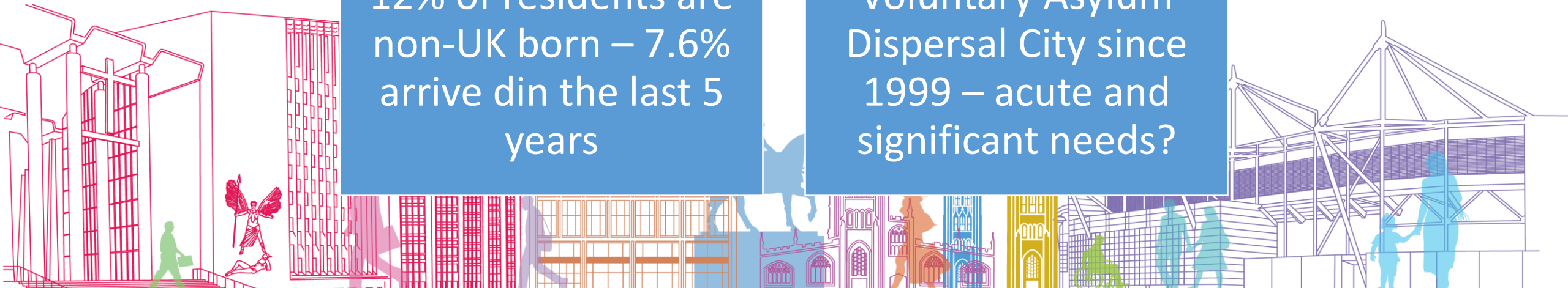
360,000 population –
and growing

33.5% of population
from Minority Ethnic
Groups

International
Migration is major
factor – International
Students, EU migrants

12% of residents are
non-UK born – 7.6%
arrive in the last 5
years

Voluntary Asylum
Dispersal City since
1999 – acute and
significant needs?



A diverse city...

Largest group of
Asylum
seekers have
recently come from
**Afghanistan, Iraq,
Pakistan, Nigeria**



Over 550
Asylum seekers from
over 40 countries



Around 625
Resettled refugees
(mainly from Syria)



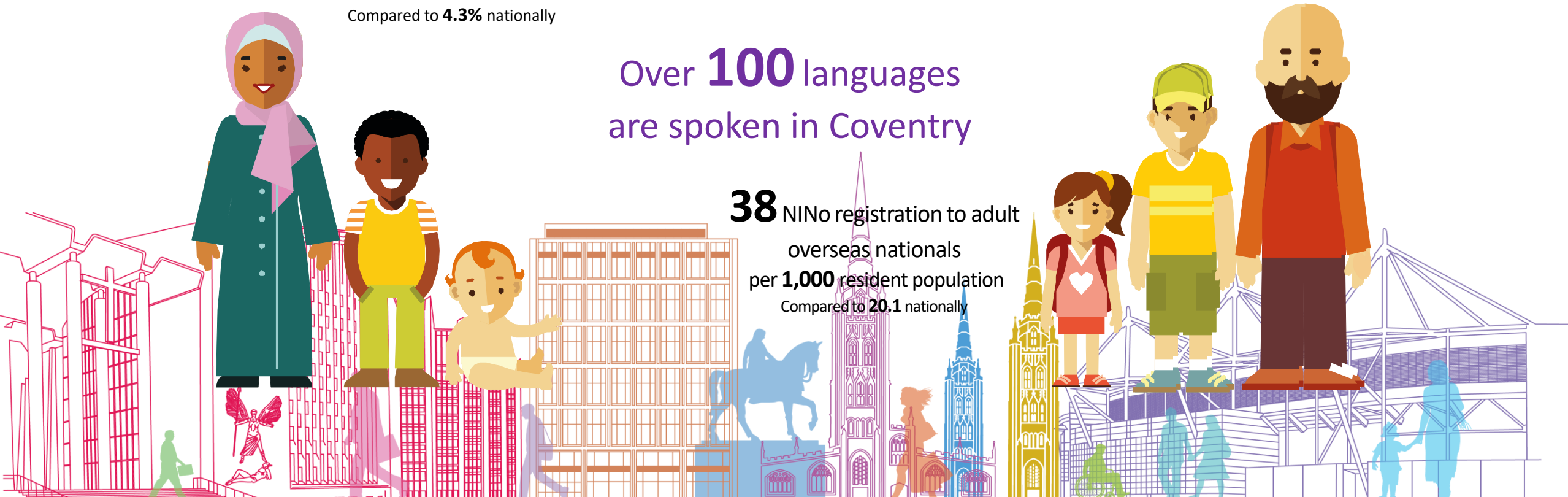
A vibrant city..

9% of households
do not have any person
resident with English as
their first language
Compared to **4.3%** nationally

31.4 new migrant
GP registration
per **1,000** resident population
Versus **10.3** regionally and **12.6** nationally

Over **100** languages
are spoken in Coventry

38 NI No registration to adult
overseas nationals
per **1,000** resident population
Compared to **20.1** nationally

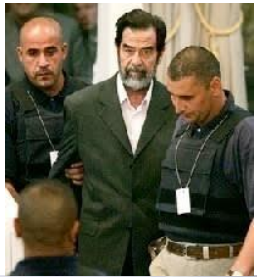


A City of Peace and Reconciliation

- The City's ruined Cathedral stands as a constant reminder of the horrors of war
- The impact of the blitz is embedded in the City's memory
- Part of the City of Sanctuary movement
- Annual Peace Festival led by the Lord Mayor
- RISING Global Peace Forum
- Multi-faith and cross community
- Coventry – globally connected and locally committed

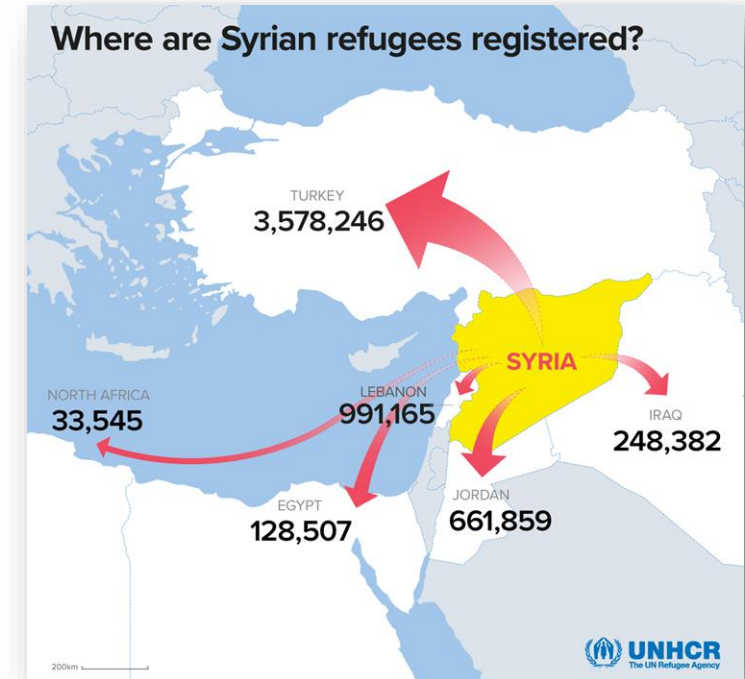


Today – A reflection of the past



The global refugee crisis

- **68.5m people** displaced from their homes
- **24.5m refugees**, over half 18 and many spending their youth in displacement
- Developing regions host **85% of refugees** under UNHCR mandate
- **10 m stateless people** denied nationality and access to basic rights
- **6.5m displaced inside Syria**; 13.1m people in need of assistance
- **2.2 m asylum applications** in Europe 2016-18 (900,000 pending in July) – majority Syrians
- **73% registered Syrian refugees** in the region are women and children.



Seeking Refugee and giving back

- Came from Syria in February 2019. As I was pregnant and a language barrier, I was struggling to access services.
- Was supported to access services and attend ESOL classes and feel connected to the local community.

“We don’t feel isolated any more. If we need help we can always contact someone who will help.”



- Came UK in June 2017, still awaiting for the Home Office decision.
- Supported to attend ESOL classes at Jesus Centre and now volunteers once a week supporting homeless people (i.e. by cutting hair and helping in the Kitchen). “

“I like helping homeless people. I hope to open a barber shop once I am granted asylum because I enjoy cutting hair”

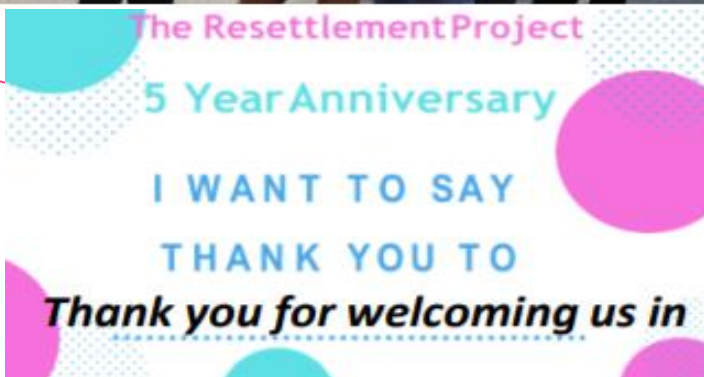


Coventry's response

- Initial agreement to accept **10/12 families**-First family arrived **July 2014**
- **52 Syrians** arrived by November 2014
- Further commitment to a **further 50 refugees** before Christmas 2014
- First arrivals in **June 2015** –September arrivals pre-planned, but became part of the first of the 20,000
- Committed to taking **c125 refugees per year**
- Now includes Resettlement of Vulnerable Children
- Housing, Health, Education, Employment needs – plus cultural



Playing our part



Our Priorities for New Coventry Residents

Coventry's Migrant Needs



Housing



Education ,
Employment and Skills



Integration



Health



Basic Needs



Priorities without local resource

The MiFriendly Cities Project

Launched February 2018



An innovative partnership encouraging cross sector working



A holistic model to Integration- for anyone not UK born



- A 3-year ERDF- funded initiative
- Innovative and community-led activities aimed at enhancing the contribution of refugees and migrants in the West Midlands

ESOL Classe(left), Share My Language information (centre), Language support classes(right)



Citizens
& Voices

Share My Language

A photograph showing two women, one wearing a white headscarf and the other a pink one, sitting at a table and sharing food. There are various dishes and containers on the table.

Meet new people and improve your English in a fun and informal environment. You can also share your language with another, for free or in exchange for another skill such as cooking

For more information about
'Share my Language' contact:
Indy.Donald@coventry.gov.uk

The MiFriendly Cities logo, featuring a stylized blue and orange shape with the text "MiFriendly Cities" and a small bird icon.The European Union logo, featuring a blue rectangle with twelve yellow stars arranged in a circle, and the text "EUROPEAN UNION" and "European Regional Development Fund" below it.The logo for Urban Innovative Actions (UIA), featuring a stylized green and blue shape with the text "UIA" and "URBAN INNOVATIVE ACTIONS" inside.

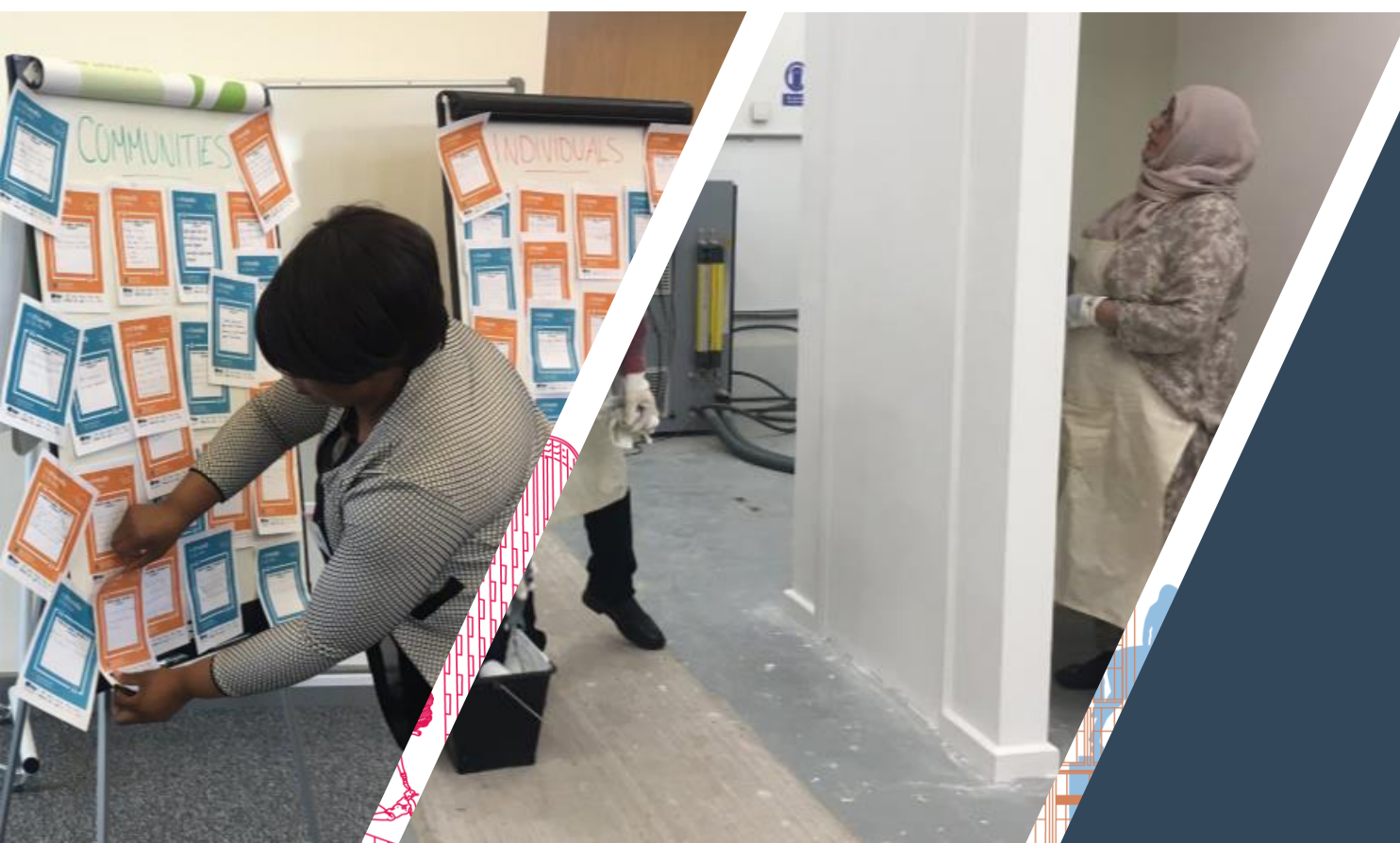




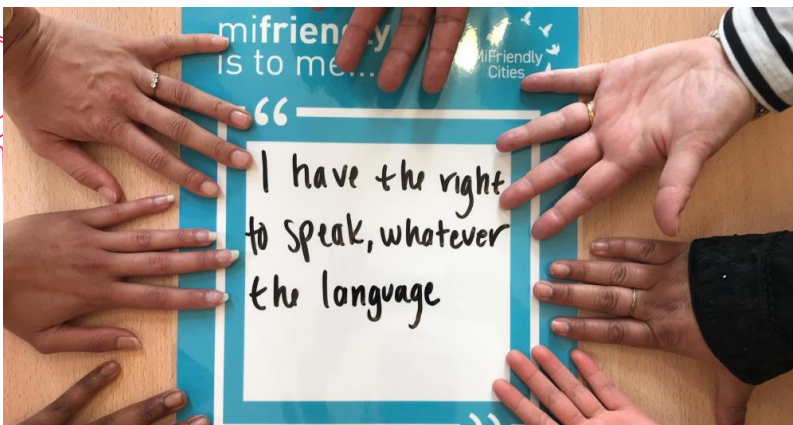
migrants

Download FREE resources from our website
Refugee Skills
Know Your Rights - available in 10 languages
www.refugeeskills.co.uk/resources

Workshop is designed to help migrants and asylum seekers learn media skills.
Refugee Voice is organising a Media Lab training workshop in Bournemouth on Tuesday, 27th February, 10.30 at the Refugee and Migrant Centre on Waterloo Road.
International photojournalist and creative photographer Denise Maxwell, of Lensi Photography, will lead the training session to help represent migrant voices in the media, with asy-



Skills offered and
resources created



was like to stand there at my first Pride parade wearing a rainbow flag and a big grin knowing I didn't need to be afraid of the police or my community.

work here in 2008. I've had different jobs but always worked. Now there's Brexit and I don't know what to do.

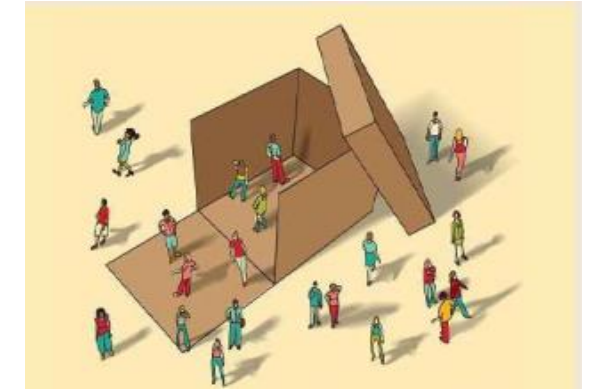
Empowering Refugees and Migrants



Assets for communities- Social Innovation

Get out from your box: The project will improve migrants and non-migrants' picture, and their involvement into the life of the community. The project will increase social capital through volunteering or directly supporting individuals to get involved in discussions regarding local/national/European issues.

At least 1000 community members will join the electoral list.



- **Families in Conversation** :Aims to improve conversational/counselling skills of migrants and local parents to address family problems and support their children and avoid family conflicts which can have negative impacts on mental health of families.
- Develop and deliver a conversational, parenting course curriculum, with a contextualized ESOL sub curriculum, in the context of mental health and counselling skills.



Assets for communities-Social Entrepreneurship

Akwaba: Ngolo Luc Kone will offer community spaces offering skill children breakfast & afterschool clubs alongside math tutoring. Akwaba means welcome and the centre will have a warm and family like atmosphere working from the saying 'it takes a village to raise a child.'



Ghousan Albakari: A Syrian refugee & now Social Entrepreneur thanks to the [@CUSocEnt](https://t.co/sm7Df7KqjD?amp=1) MiFriendly Cities training programme. With a €5000 award, her business will offer modest women, migrant and non-migrant alike more choice when it comes to clothes.

<https://t.co/sm7Df7KqjD?amp=1>

Ali Aldube: Ali resettled to the UK from Syria in 2018 & with MiFriendly Cities support has received funding to start his social enterprise phone repair shop with profits going to help low income families.





Building Bridges

- A 2-year initiative funded by MHCLG and led by Coventry City Council.
- The priority of the project is to bring all communities together by supporting, participating and investing in the skills, the assets and the cultural background that each individual has
- ESOL classes, Information, Advice and Guidance Sessions, School and Community aid hubs and long-term volunteering placements



Participants from ESOL classes visiting Central Library



Community Aid Hubs



School Aid Hubs



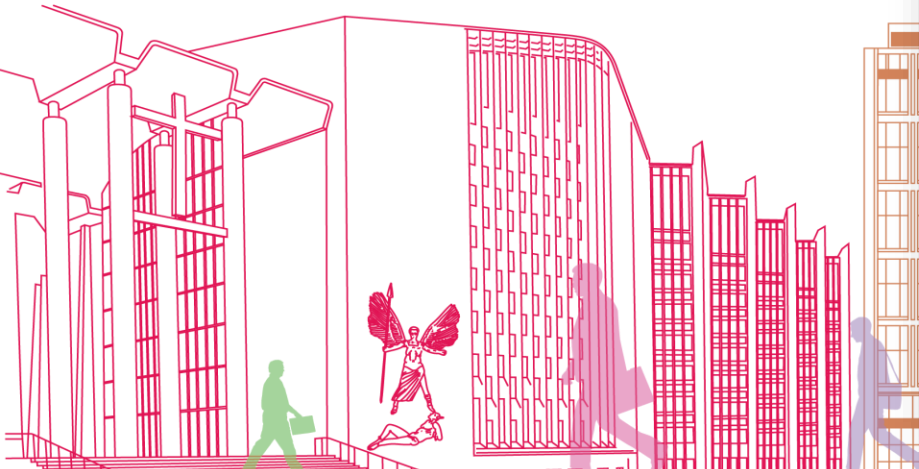
Volunteering



Our communities ,
Our future

Positive Images festival

- Coventry Libraries put on and host a variety of events and activities as part of the annual Positive Images Festival
- Culturally engaging displays, and book displays
- Rhymes, poems and costumes from around the world
- Eid festival celebrations



Coventry libraries



17 public libraries
(including community / volunteer run libraries)

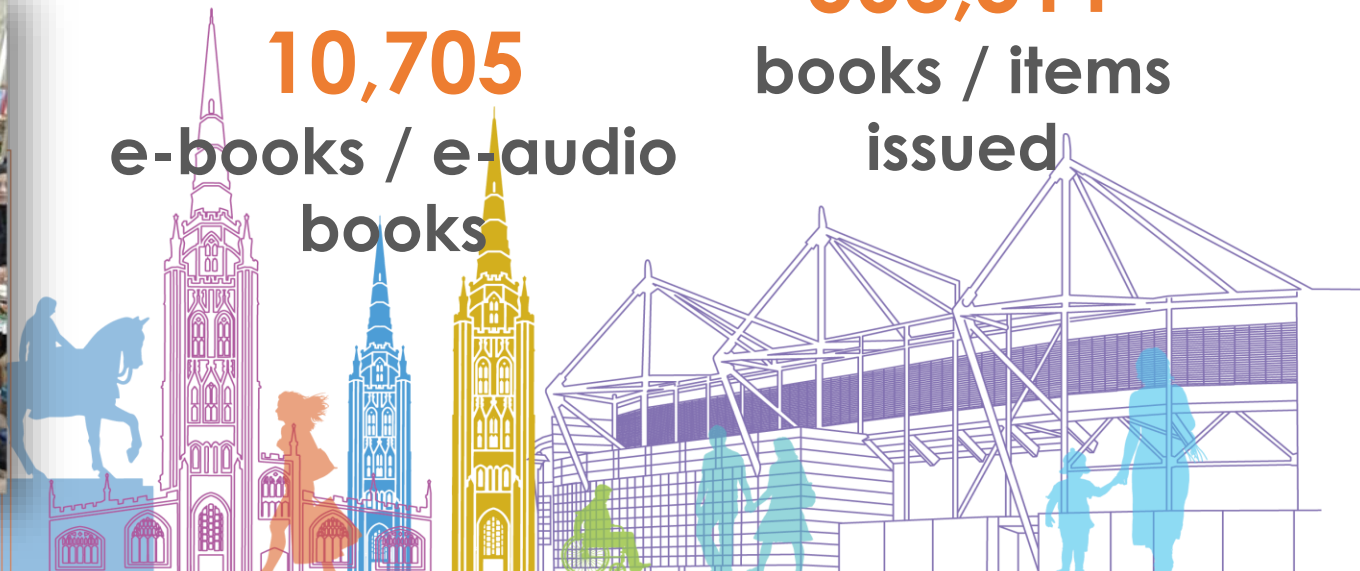
933,470
visits last year

69,906
members

384,415
computer
sessions

10,705
e-books / e-audio
books

563,511
books / items
issued



Coventry libraries are an essential part of the City's response to the current refugee crisis

- A warm welcome and a place of safety – beginning in Central Library
- A membership card!
- Conversational English classes
- Support with basic IT skills
- Children's activities
- Support for the Life in the UK test
- Events and community celebrations



Celebration and integration



@arabcodeclub
arabcodeclub@gmail.com

نا يد البرمجة العربي

{code club}

تقديم: ابتهاق قويد بد

ن لآ يف كمتبوك برتيف ملاكرزتي

مودينثلا ٢٣ ي لوج ٢٠١٨

نم لاساعة ٤ لاي ٦ مساء

يستفد الننا يد جمعو طلائف الم بر نم عمر ٩-١٢ سنه
ستعمل طلائف اساسيات البرمجة، وطريقت برمج الاطنتر بد نو طيرا
باستخدام اجهزا اللوي
بج الشجر باستخدام اللغتين العربيه والانجليزتي
احلروض ماجني، والجستل اجبا ير ملحدوت ددع املاء املاء ن
طريق مراسل اكلنتي

تاهف: 024 7683 2314

بردي إلكتروني: libraries247@coventry.gov.uk

Scratch TYKOR
www.coventry.gov.uk/codeclub

Celebrations in
Central library

Children's activities
in Coventry libraries

The Picture Book Project

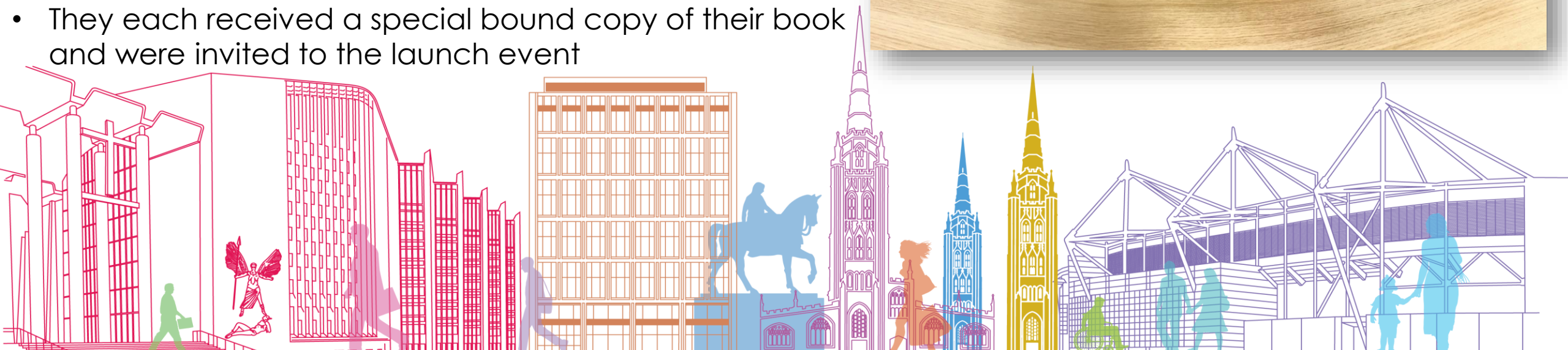
Coventry University and
Coventry Libraries

2018



Listening to the voices of refugee children and hearing their stories

- We were approached by researchers from Coventry University and a Canadian partner
- Children from 8-18 took part in two sets of workshops held in the Central Library
- The sessions included learning about art, storytelling, childhood experience and how to make picture books
- The children learned different skills working with textiles, clay paint etc
- They each received a special bound copy of their book and were invited to the launch event



The Flower of Sadness

by Maryam Alako, 18

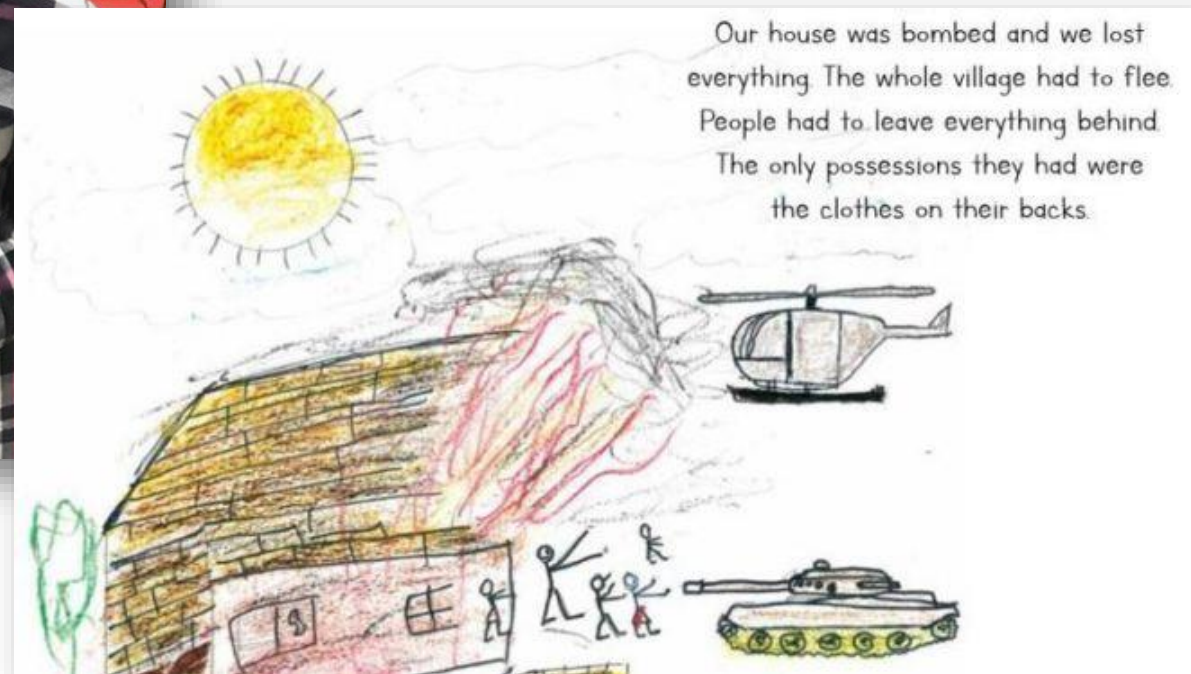
"I wanted to show the life or death situation my family was in. It was terrible. It was dangerous and many people had to leave their homes."

"We are thinking about others who have been through or are going through what it was like for us."

"Life is very different in Coventry. I'm thinking about working for the police."

[\(Speaking with BBC News\)](#)

The Picture Book Project 2018



THE FAMILY IN SYRIA

The family does not have food. They are hungry. They don't have a home, they live in the temple.



Layla Alshaebi wanted to tell of the poverty in Syria



Layla on BBC Coventry and Warwickshire



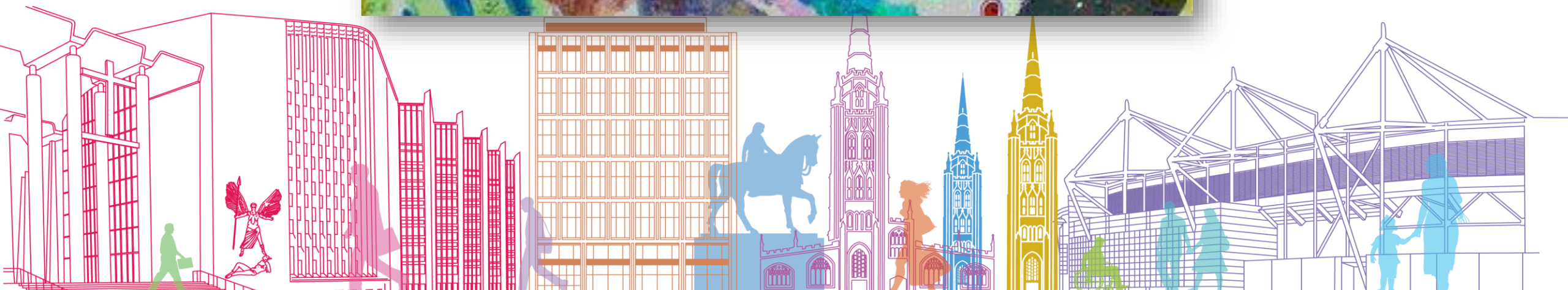
I would like to go back to Syria.
Forever? Yes, forever!
But no. A visit. Because some people are killing each other there.

Mustafa, nine: "I wanted my picture to show I am thinking about home, but it is very dangerous"

The Picture Book Project 2018



What does the future hold?





Coventry Libraries and
Information Service



Thank you and any questions?

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