

**Civil Society Consulting** is a not-for-profit social enterprise mentoring grassroots community groups in some of the country's most socially challenged neighbourhoods, strengthening their abilities to sustain their services, and grow their impact in their local communities.

**Civil Society Connecting aims to support adults from ethnically diverse backgrounds, including vulnerable migrants, asylum seekers and refugees to overcome social isolation and make their way in life, by accessing the support they need, developing their talents, confidence and wellbeing, language and job seeking skills – and lead flourishing lives.**

**This small-scale project is building a network of 15 'digital' Kindness connectors - people with time to donate, life experiences and the skills – to mentor, coach and befriend people from diverse ethnic backgrounds. They will provide one-to-one emotional and practical support, listening to their needs and then providing tailored support for up to three months.**

The mentoring project is a response by Civil Society Consulting to meet the identified needs of vulnerable migrants, asylum seekers, refugees and many others from ethnically diverse communities, building on recent dedicated support and mentoring programmes such as 'Steps to Recovery':

<https://civilsocietyconsulting.co.uk/our-work-in-action/steps-to-recovery-support-for-community-champions/>

## Steps to Recovery

The project will be delivered in partnership with many of the local social action and faith-based organisations and other Civil Society Consulting partners - that have participated and been mentored during the recent Steps to Recovery programme.

**Each Kindness connector will support one to four people a year, by volunteering to mentor and befriend; they will offer information, guidance and support to:**

- Listen and chat
- Help find and access services and networks – connecting them with what is going on both locally and nationally
- Help them know their area and way of life in the UK
- Engage in new activities, learning and hobbies
- Support conversation English learning
- Explore short and long term career routes and goals including help with applying for work, write a CV and prepare for interviews
- Secure unpaid work, including volunteering or shadowing, experience (in civil society organisations)
- Improve computer and IT skills.

**Who provides the Kindness Connectors service?**

**Civil Society Connecting** is a service provided by a part-time project manager (commissioned by Civil Society Consulting). Connectors will have at least 10 years UK work history, with experience in different sectors and a variety of roles. All will have undergone Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks.

**How is mentoring provided?**

- For up to 3 months
- 4 hours commitment each month
- By email, telephone or Zoom/video calls, in the day or early evening.