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Mentors called upon to spend some TimeTogether

Dudley-based charity The Centre for Equality and Diversity are calling on prospective volunteers across Sandwell and Dudley to take part in an innovative mentoring project.

The TimeTogether Refugee Mentoring Project matches volunteer mentors with Refugees in a mentoring relationship. The project aims to assist the Refugee's Integration into British Society and to help them to reach their potential.

Once matched, the pair spends around 5 hours per month together, working on the refugee's personal, professional and vocational goals – but it's not all work! The mentor and mentee can also take day-trips to museums and galleries as a way of learning about British Culture.

Martyn Copus, chair said:

“Not only is this a wonderful development opportunity for Refugees but the volunteer mentors on the scheme have also reported back what a fantastic time they have had learning about the Refugee's culture. It really is a unique form of volunteering - not only are you providing help for someone but you also get to go out and about the Borough, exploring British culture whilst getting to know new people.”

Sharon Vaughan who is currently mentoring Charles, a Refugee from The Congo said: "Working with my mentee has been an eye-opener. I have provided my mentee with practical support and he has given me an insight into a fascinating culture. I have also had the chance to re-discover my own culture."

The Centre for Equality and Diversity is currently seeking committed, enthusiastic individuals to volunteer as mentors. In addition, they are keen to hear from any refugees who feel that they may benefit from being involved in a mentoring experience."

For further information, please contact Sharron Jones on 01384 860351, e-mail Sharron.jones@cfed.org.uk or visit www.timetogether.org.uk

To register as a mentor or to find more information on ***Time Together***, refugees and asylum seekers please visit www.timebank.org.uk/mentor or http://stories.timebank.org.uk/TimeTogether_home.php

Contact: Sharron Jones 01384 860351 or Sharron.jones@cfed.org.uk

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Notes to Editors

1. TimeBank's *Time Together* initiative is funded by the Home Office and Treasury's Invest to Save budget. The Invest to Save Budget (ISB) is a joint Treasury/Cabinet Office initiative with an aim to create sustainable improvements in the capacity to deliver public services in a more joined up manner. A key principle of the ISB programme is that investment is provided in return for reform. <http://www.isb.gov.uk/hmt.isb.application.2/index.asp>

2. TimeBank is a national charity inspiring and connecting people to share and give time. www.timebank.org.uk or 0845 601 4008

3. The Centre for Equality and Diversity is a dynamic organisation seeking to develop innovative and creative approaches to tackle discrimination and develop the capacity of ethnic minority individuals and groups in the Dudley borough. www.cfed.org.