

## Research Wales Innovation Fund

### Civic Mission and Public Engagement: template for case studies

<b>Institution:</b>	University of South Wales
<b>Civic Mission Theme (select from drop down list) :</b>	Active citizenship
<b>Vision for Research and Innovation Pillars (select those that apply):</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Place <input type="checkbox"/> Innovation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Collaboration
<b>Title of case study / project / initiative:</b>	Enhancing Language Provision for Forced Migrants in Wales, Dr Mike Chick
<p><b>Summary description: (max 150 words)</b>            [Briefly describe the project, including groups within the community who were engaged and how it was funded. Was the project evidence-based / informed by research?]</p> <p>Since the establishment of the Syrian Vulnerable Persons' Resettlement Scheme (SVPRS) in September 2015, over 1000 Syrians have been rehomed in Wales. In accordance with the scheme, refugees are entitled to free English language courses provided by the 22 local authorities in Wales. Dr Mike Chick's research works to address the issues surrounding the provision of English language courses to those seeking asylum in Wales. His work helps better understand the needs of SVPRS participants, while also highlighting the barriers they face in accessing future education and employment. By examining the linguistic support currently in place, Chick identifies variations in learners' needs according to educational background, language levels, professional qualifications and employment aspirations. In doing so, he aims to establish 'contextual' ESOL (English to Speakers of Other Languages) programmes that cater to the needs of the individual learner. Chick's findings have enabled him to identify the most appropriate approaches to meet these needs and he works to increase English language provision for refugees across Wales.</p>	
<p><b>Project / initiative impact: (max 200 words)</b>            [Describe the actual impact of initiative, including insights gained, and positive outcomes (whether planned or unforeseen)]</p>	

Working alongside the Welsh Refugee Council (WRC), Chick also facilitates innovative approaches to Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) for refugees living in Cardiff. Delivering these classes alerted the department to the significant demand for English language provision in refugee communities in Cardiff. Since the launch of the first class in 2016, the scope and quality of the course has increased substantially. There is now over twelve hours of English language instruction being delivered at the Welsh Refugee Council's headquarters each week with over sixty learners participating. The success of the programme has also led to financial support being provided by the Welsh Assembly Government to fund further ESOL programmes across Wales.

Chick's research into the delivery of English language programmes and his experience in providing training for ESOL teachers has broad implications, including the improvement of public services for refugees and the development of future resettlement schemes. Following the presentation of interim findings to the Welsh Government, the research was noted to have influenced how portions of a £2 million EU social budget will be spent in Wales. The report, for example, made recommendations for specialist employment and education advisors in Wales, who have expertise in the challenges faced by forced migrants. In response to this, the Welsh Government have used the EU funding to create three Regional Employer Engagement Officers working across Wales. These roles will deliver the newly developed 'ReStart' programme at the four asylum dispersal clusters at Cardiff, Newport, Swansea and Wrexham. The programme aims to improve access to language tuition and employability support, while providing individuals with specific cultural knowledge to aid integration and community participation.

**Future activity: (max 150 words)**

[Is the project now sustainable, or are there plans for follow-on projects – if so how will these be funded?]

The project is sustainable in that the English language provision can be implemented in classrooms across the country. The University of South Wales will continue to provide refugees access to language programmes that will allow them to actively participate in culture and society. In June, the University of South Wales was awarded a University of Sanctuary Status, and it will continue to offer support for those seeking asylum in the area.

**Quote(s) e.g. from external project partner: (around 60 words)**

[There is potential for HEFCW to publish this case study – please provide a quote that helps demonstrate the impact of engagement]

"I've been from London to Exeter and finally it's been a month that I am living here waiting for an interview for an asylum. I have to wait a month for the interview and then one month after the interview but after that I want to apply for a PhD in Sociology. I am a writer I wrote many books about Kurdish society and Kurdish problems and now I am trying to translate my books."

**Khaled, participant in the TESOL programme.**

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<b>How did the activity help support the Well-being of Future Generations Act goals (select those that apply):</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A prosperous Wales <input type="checkbox"/> A resilient Wales <input type="checkbox"/> A healthier Wales <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A more equal Wales <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A Wales of cohesive communities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language <input type="checkbox"/> A globally responsible Wales
<b>[Briefly outline how the project helped support the goals of the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015]</b>  The project helped support the Well-Being goals by providing asylum seekers with the chance to actively participate in Welsh culture and society through the provision of both English and Welsh language skills. Doing so, promotes social cohesion, and provides individuals with the potential to engage in political discourses in the future. The project also helps provide access to the job market for those forces to relocate in Wales.	