OBSTACLES TO THE SETTING UP OF BUSINESSES BY REFUGEES

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INTRODUCTION

- Stigmatisation of refugees and asylum seekers;
- Europe now a gated community (Houtum and Pijpers, 2007);
- Importance of Refugee Community Organisations clear. Much depended on grants. Thus with recession...... Big Society;
- Given this context and we hoped that University could support ‘development’ for these communities.
Discussion with Key community leader set-up two workshops (i) ‘Starting a social enterprise’ (ii) ‘Planning your business (ad)venture’;

- First workshop 30 participants (Cameroon, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Guinea, Iran, Somalia, the Sudan, Pakistan, Uganda, Zimbabwe);

- 14 owned business in home country and only 1 in UK. But during workshop all indicated that second workshop on business start-up was needed;

- Second workshop 22 participants (Cameroon, Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iran, Somalia, Sudan, Pakistan, Zimbabwe) involved PNE Consultancy Group and Entrust Newcastle.
Refugees and asylum seekers

Art 1A of the Geneva Convention – well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion

If accepted as a refugee may work and/or claim benefits
COMMUNITY GROUPS

- WERS
- Poor English
- Feel beholden already
- Stress
- Mental health/emotional issues
- Cultural differences – don’t know where to start
- EAASSG (now closed)
- Loss of homeland and family
- A number
- Not treated as vulnerable adults
- Employed well below capacity
- Small community
TYPES OF BUSINESSES

- Hairdressers
- Food shops
- Cleaning businesses
- A band