

The **Culture Kitchen** movement.

Aim: To create a network of organisations working to the 'Culture Kitchen' model and vision of community development.

Vision: Communities of strength characterised by individual wellbeing, resilience, respect and cultural understanding.

Model: People who are refugees and asylum seekers (and other migrants) and people originally from the UK come together to form a Culture Kitchen group of volunteers tasked with developing and delivering exciting and appealing community food events. Each event is centered on a vibrant meal cooked by the Culture Kitchen volunteers. Each dish is representative of each of the volunteer's cultures. The events include talks, presentations, and where possible music performances. The events rotate around different community hubs such as church halls and community centres with the communities local to that centre attending having had the event promoted to them before hand by the collaborating community leaders.

Key aim (a): The events promote multicultural awareness, respect and community cohesion by bringing people together to meet, learn and share through food.

Key aim (b): Participation in the project as a volunteer leads to improved wellbeing, integration and skill development outcomes for the individual.

Background: Culture Connect was set up in Newcastle upon Tyne in 2010 as a charity run entirely by volunteers. Our main project is known as Culture Kitchen. We have delivered over 50 Culture Kitchen events since we started, with over 100 volunteers involved and over 800 event attendees. We now have a proven model in our Culture Kitchen approach and we are keen to start a movement and spread this work around the UK, maybe even beyond!

Ambition: To gain funding to establish a network of at least 10 groups by 2020 in different parts of the UK delivering one off and regular Culture Kitchen events in their towns and cities. The funding we hope to achieve would include set up money for the groups to cover the initial 6 months of operations for each project as well as advice, guidance and set up support and resources.

Who we're looking for: Community groups, faith groups, charities, associations interested in promoting the Culture Kitchen aims in their communities.

What next: Get in touch with Nick Sinclair, the chair of Culture Connect for an explorative chat. Once we have enough interested potential partners Culture Connect will submit a bid to a key funder.

How to get in touch: Email nick.sinclair@ccuk.org.uk

We look forward to hearing from you.

www.ccuk.org.uk

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