



Bethany Mitchell

Job Title: Operations Manager
Locality: Manchester
Project Title: Programme Supporting Migrants



Project Aim

This project explored health inequalities faced by asylum seekers in Greater Manchester. I aimed to establish clear pathways for those in temporary asylum accommodation, focusing on mental health, maternity care, sexual health, and infectious diseases. My goal was to improve healthcare access and reduce barriers, ensuring individuals have the information they need. I gained insights into how social inequalities like housing, finances, and education impact health. I aimed to create a support program providing a single point of access within asylum accommodation to help navigate healthcare systems and connect with the VCSE sector and charities.

What did I do?

As Operations Manager for GTD HealthCare, I oversee the delivery of primary on-site healthcare for six asylum-seeking contingency hotels in Manchester, Trafford, and Stockport. I reviewed signposting resources available within our hotel settings, and found that Stockport has clear resources and support, whereas this was lacking in Manchester. I collaborated with local VCSE sectors and Manchester City Council to enhance support for refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers focusing on mental health, maternity care, sexual health, and infectious diseases. I developed a single point of access support service in each hotel by meeting with individuals twice monthly to offer support e.g., registering with a GP surgery and access to mental health support. I advised people how to use NHS apps and tools,

What did I learn

I have gained a clearer understanding of the health inequalities faced by asylum seekers in Greater Manchester and how to address them and how care pathways align with these needs. Language barriers and a lack of guidance for those with positive asylum claims, often leading to homelessness, are significant issues. I noted variation in infectious disease screening across hostel locations, which puts additional strain on the hostel primary care service. I have benefited from communities of practice and peer support sessions, enhancing my knowledge of population health and leadership. This has enabled me to tackle inequalities and address the wider determinants of health in my role.

Has this changed how you work?

Having completed the Public Health Level One Foundation Programme, this changed the way I work, as I felt I gained more knowledge and applied these to my everyday work. By keeping the core domains of public health in mind whilst working within health care / the community we can help promotion, prevention, and everydayion of all our local communities.

What happens next?

I will continue to use my knowledge and skills gained from my fellowship. I will embed my project into my current team by creating a care navigation role to continue the signposting and navigation support for our residents. GTD Health care have also applied for grant funding to offer mental health therapeutic support, and I will consider inequalities in how we mobilise this services. This will improve mental health and wellbeing of vulnerable asylum-seeking adults, as they progress through the asylum journey.

To read more about Beth’s journey, scan the QR code below



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