

Position Title: Language Programme Lead

Reporting to: Volunteer Leadership Team - Chair

Organisation: Sevenoaks Welcomes Refugees (SWR)

Location: Sevenoaks Town and surrounding areas within the district council area

Time Commitment: 5-10 hours per week

Remuneration: Voluntary Position (Expenses Reimbursed)

Organisation Overview

Sevenoaks Welcomes Refugees (SWR) was founded in 2017 and became a registered charity in 2019. Initially focused on supporting Syrian refugees resettling in the Sevenoaks district under the UK Government Resettlement Scheme, SWR's mission has since expanded to assist 16 refugee families from Syria and Afghanistan, as well as 50 Ukrainian families. In 2023-24, SWR raised over £70,000 to further its work, collaborating closely with local councils and partner organisations to achieve its objectives. With seven trustees, 110 active volunteers, and a supporter base of approximately 750 people, SWR is poised for a new phase of growth.

Role Overview:

As the Language Programme Lead, you will provide leadership in developing and delivering tailored language learning plans for refugees from Syria, Afghanistan, and Ukraine. Your role is crucial in promoting independence and successful integration into society for these individuals and families, aligning with the charity's strategic objectives.

Key Responsibilities:

- Manage the delivery of differentiated language support tailored to the individual needs of each refugee through a team of 30 or so well-motivated language volunteers, usually, but not always operating one to one. This team have delivered at least 8,000 hours of language support since the charity started.
- Be actively involved in the recruitment of new language volunteers as required.
- Oversee necessary training for language volunteers and develop the promotion of best practice across the language programme group.

- Arrange for initial assessments on the arrival of all new families into the area and producing suitable teaching programmes that link with whatever other family support is required and what other stakeholders are providing.
- Participate as a member with other team members of the Volunteer Leadership Team to provide an effective overall support for our refugee beneficiaries.
- Liaise with key stakeholders such as Kent County Council (KCC), Kent Adult Education(KAE), and the newly established Kent ESOL Networking Group to maintain good relationships that support the provision of our language programme.

Qualifications

A working knowledge of ESOL and associated exams and qualifications would be beneficial.

Driver's licence and access to a car would be extremely useful, given the geographical spread of the beneficiaries in the wider Sevenoaks area. This is not a role that can be performed online.

Impact and reward:

The Language Programme Lead will play a critical role in empowering refugees to achieve greater independence and integration within their new communities. You will help our refugee beneficiaries gain the language skills, confidence, and vocational training necessary to navigate daily life, access employment opportunities, and participate fully in society. You will play a big role in transforming the lives of refugees. In some cases of refugees who are illiterate in their own language, this will be genuinely life changing.