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How the English Café at University Centre Telford has led to a more integrated approach to working with different migrant and refugee communities in Telford

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The English Café at University Centre Telford began in June 2018 as a response to an identified need amongst migrant communities for English classes with an emphasis on social integration. Many of the migrants living in Telford have high level qualifications and professions in their own country but English is their main barrier when they arrive in the UK. The Centre aims to raise aspirations and provide advice and guidance about progression opportunities available including progression to higher education. Centre staff work in partnership with staff at the University as well as local agencies. This presentation charts the development of this programme over time and its role in inclusivity and social justice and addressing the needs of different groups through responsive practices. It will use visual imagery as the basis for understanding the development of this programme and its recent expansion into the specialist area of working with refugees from Afghanistan and the Ukraine.