



Moments of Freedom

Pilot Evaluation

18th Dec 2017

Where we started

In partnership with the Resettlement Team at West Dunbartonshire Council, Outside the Box began a pilot project with Syrian and Kurdish women refugee 'New Scots' in September 2017. The women and their families arrived in Clydebank under humanitarian protection. Whilst the women and their families receive significant practical support from the resettlement team, there is little resource available to make meaningful links with their wider community.

The local context

Clydebank is an area of Glasgow with a notable lack of involvement from the third sector. Most provision is service led, meaning there are gaps in opportunity for community led involvement. This was the point from which we began the pilot, as an informal space for the women to have some time to themselves to enjoy activities of interest. The pilot project was shaped by a model of asset based participation so that we could gain a sincere understanding of how the women would like to shape their new journey in Scotland.

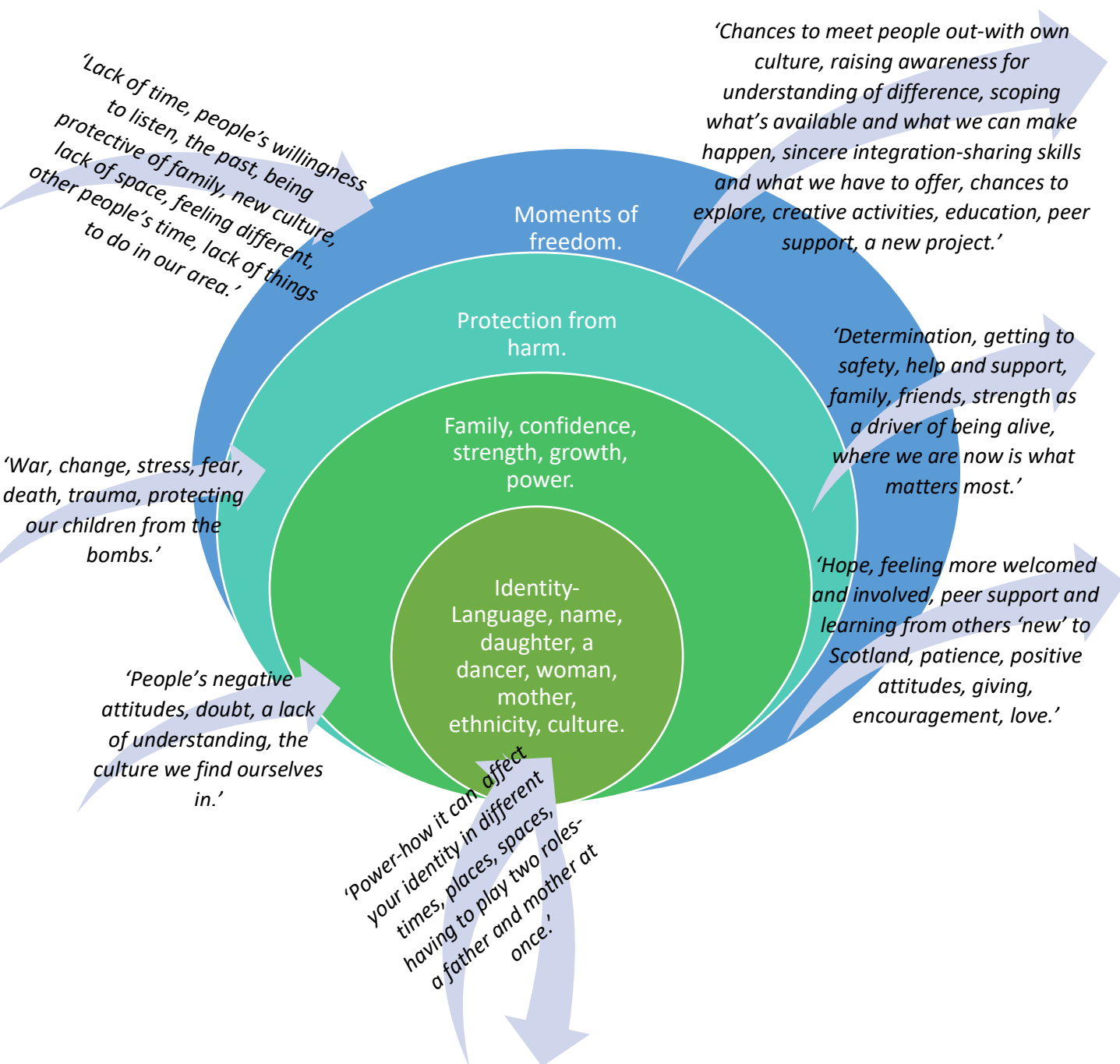
Our pilot project

We used the Common Third to engage with the women, a creative and reflective tool that helped us share in activities to strengthen our relationships <http://www.thempra.org.uk/social-pedagogy/key-concepts-in-social-pedagogy/the-common-third/>. Clay modelling pinch pots were a perfect beginning for meeting the women for the first time. Potting herbs and flowers for their window gardens led onto conversations about a lack of outside space and how we could visit community gardens to link with the people who use them to build greater connections. A football session; having a culturally sensitive space to be active is really important to the women and something that is lacking in their area. The session got them thinking about how they would like women only swimming sessions at their local leisure centre with other local women. Belly dancing and food as a celebration of being free to express yourself in a space where there was no judgement, only enjoyment. On-going visits with Wellhall older people's care home has provided links with the wider community across Glasgow and created opportunities for intergenerational learning.

Evaluation and planning for our future journey

The women not only want to be part of their community but want to offer their time and skills to shape it. As a means of reflection and to move us forward to the next phase of work, we used intersectionality as a tool for evaluation to plot how the women want to shape their new project based on the learning from the pilot. Intersectionality encourages people to consider their identity in different settings and how power imbalances in their lives can affect their ability to achieve goals and aspirations. We carried out an evaluation to enable the group to plot where they want to be [both at a community level and in shaping a new project] whilst reflecting on the intersections that may impede or encourage their ability to 'get there'. This helped to reinforce the peer support the group already give to each other as well as opening up potential spaces for where new networks of peer support may exist within the wider community. The women identified these particular spaces as 'Moments of Freedom'- a place to enjoy new experiences and situations.

'Moments of freedom'- using intersectionality as a journey.



Each circle lists the things the women view as fundamental in their journey's to reaching where they want to be and ultimately what they'd like for their families. With their identities at the core, each circle layers the next representing how personal growth in a safe place leads to empowerment.

The arrows moving into the circles are intersections that the women experience as having significant impact on their ability to reach their goals. Although, in plotting their journey in this way it became very clear that they have managed to survive in the face of extreme adversity - how the women dealt with these experiences were the very things that were to get their families to a place of safety. The arrows moving out were the intersections they felt really helped them move forward. The women are now in a place they feel they can look to the future- 'where we are now is what matters most' in reaching their destinations, finding 'moments of freedom' for their families to be happy in a new place and time.

A 'New Scot' peer project



Building on the work we have already begun, the new project will provide the learning necessary for the women to be skilled up to practice community scoping activities based on their existing areas of interest. We will organise 'inspirational visits' with local community gardens, care homes and support the women to gather interest with other local groups around women only sports activities. Using the partnerships we have, the women will meet with other people new to Scotland who have been here for a longer period to hear how they have made links with their wider communities and share their learning. These opportunities will allow the women to gain a clearer picture of what journey's other people have been on to make a new life in Scotland with links to other community led projects across Glasgow. Gaining the skills and knowledge on how to make links across different peer networks will provide the women with the confidence to shape their community by having a good understanding of how their participation can influence decision making. This will also provide spaces to meet with local groups to raise awareness and share knowledge about what similarities we have but also to help welcome and celebrate our differences. We will work alongside the women to continuously develop links across Scotland with other groups in order to build a model of peer support that anyone new to Scotland can access. Sharing the experiences of people as experts in their own journeys, we will use our peer networks and partnerships to collectively influence local and national policy.

Our partners

West Dumbartonshire Council Resettlement Team

Wellhall Care home

Centre 81 – Clydebank Housing Association

Glasgow Integration Networks

COSLA

Community groups and organisations – these will change over time by their very nature but so far these are the people we are working with....

The Back Garden – Possilpark. A community space for growing, connecting and playing.

Rosemount Family Learning Centre – Royston. A community capacity-building organisation that is supporting families to settle and integrate into the local community.

Individuals – Possilpark, Springburn. Women who feel that they have been able to build strong, deep and meaningful connections with people and places in their new communities.

Possible Future Partners:

Selina Hales of Refuweege