



MEETING POINT

Impact Report 2025-26

A Year of Kindness, Resilience and Community.



"Meeting Point is our family!!"

Welcome

My name is Asiyeh Soork and I am proud to be the Project Manager of Meeting Point. Welcome to our Impact Report for 2025–26 (April 2025 – March 2026).

Meeting Point started in February 2003 and is based at Christ Church in Armley, Leeds, supporting refugees and asylum seekers of any age, gender, sexual orientation, race, religion, ability or legal status. We work towards social integration, collaborating with partners on health, employment, advice, family support and food provision, while breaking down barriers and stereotypes in the local community. This year we supported individuals from 52 nationalities, reflecting the diverse and growing scale of need in Leeds. We deliver a weekly Monday drop-in offering hot meals, food parcels, clothing and essentials, hardship payments and bus tickets; a Help Desk for welfare support and referrals; structured advocacy through our Digital Lab; ESOL classes; and our Wednesday Group, open to all genders, offering inclusion activities and trips.

Meeting Point is shaped by people with lived experience of forced migration at every level of our organisation: from governance through our beneficiary representatives and staff recruitment to our volunteer team, service delivery and leadership. One-third of our staff team have lived experience of forced migration, ensuring the voices and experiences of the people we support are central to how we lead, develop and improve our work.

Thank you to all our volunteers, staff and trustees who make our work possible, and to our funders and supporters whose generosity sustains us.



External Environment & Challenges

The world our beneficiaries navigate remains deeply challenging. Meeting Point responds every week with consistency, compassion, and care.



A Harder Road for Asylum Seekers

Stricter rules are leading to more rejections and making family reunion harder. With legal aid now cut, many face these decisions with no one to help them. Families wait years, unsure, alone, and facing a system that's tough to navigate.



Finding a Home After Status

For many, the real struggle begins the moment they get status. After years of waiting, newly recognised refugees have just weeks to leave asylum housing and find a home of their own, often facing homelessness right when they should be settling in.



Complex Needs, Less Capacity

People are arriving with more complex, overlapping needs, legal advice, housing, health, and language barriers all at once. And yet, we showed up every week trying to be a safe place for our beneficiaries and address their needs as best we can.

Meeting Point supported individuals from

52 nationalities

reflecting the diverse and growing scale of community need in Leeds.

A Year of Transition & Renewal



Strategy review

We launched our new 2026–2029 strategy, shaped by the people we support.

Shaped by our community, built on consultation with beneficiaries, volunteers, staff and trustees.

Rooted in our values, a clear three-year direction: Safety, Empowerment and Connection.

Built to last, refreshed fundraising strategy for long-term sustainability.

Staff Transition

We bid a warm farewell to our long-standing Project Worker, Judith, who retired after over 10 years of incredible, foundational service.

In November, we welcomed Carolyn Burke as our new Project Worker, bringing fresh energy, perspective, and ideas to our community sessions.

Our three-year direction



01

Safety

Feeling secure
and supported



02

Empowerment

Building confidence
and independence



03

Connection

Belonging within
our community

Funding success & widening our approach:



Funding Success

This year brought considerable funding success, providing stability and additional funds to support beneficiaries, expand our activities, and grow volunteer training.

Meeting Point consistently turns a modest budget into exceptional impact.



Fundraising Strategy

We're implementing our new Fundraising Strategy to diversify our funding streams for a stable, sustainable base, underpinned by a new Ethical Fundraising Strategy. This year we:

- **Social media:** launched a donation page.
- **Funders & donors:** improved the information we provide.
- **Community outreach:** developed a fundraising/donor leaflet for community events.

Strengthening Our Foundations

New Data System

We deployed a new database to record attendance, register needs, and track the support we provide.

This strengthens our monitoring and reporting, giving us clearer evidence of our impact and how needs are changing.

Sharper Communications

Instagram: a dedicated page launched to share stories, updates and events.

Website : a new website developed to keep partners and beneficiaries informed.

Wider reach: raising our profile and strengthening partnerships across Leeds.



2025-26 | Our Impact at a Glance

5,161

Total Attendances

Across all drop-in sessions

653

Unique Beneficiaries

493 adults · 160 children

245

New Registrations

179 adults · 66 children

3,825

**Food Parcels
Distributed**

4,645

**Hot Meals
Served**

1,743

**Bus Tickets
Issued**

454

**Hardship
Payments**

52

**Nationalities
Represented**

65

**Volunteers
This Year**

300+

**Help Desk
Beneficiaries Supported**

2,456

**Period Products
Distributed**

The Monday Drop-In: A Lifeline

Our Monday drop-in is the heart of Meeting Point's week, a place where practical support and genuine human connection come together.

Each session, people can access freshly prepared hot meals, food parcels, clothing, toiletries, period products, SIM cards, and essential household items. For those facing destitution or hardship, we also provide hardship payments and bus tickets to remove immediate barriers to safety and stability. Specialist outreach partners join us each week, so people can reach expert advice within a familiar, trusted setting.

Above all, Monday is a place to belong, where people are welcomed as they are, build friendships across cultures, and feel safe, valued, and at home.

"You look after us, thank you"



Advocacy & Casework

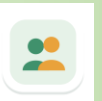
Through the Help Desk, trained students & partners on site



Help Desk: Welfare support, signposting and referrals, helping people find the services they need.



Structured Advocacy (Pro Bono): In our Digital Lab, we strengthen casework with Pro Bono law students, enabling more complex needs to be followed up.



Partners on Site: Specialist partners join our drop-in, so service users can access their services in a familiar, trusted place.



Harvey, Pro Bono Community volunteer

"Joining Meeting Point for the Digital Lab was amazing. I've since been hired as a Constituency Support Officer for Yvette Cooper MP, it was absolutely my experience here that got me the job! I'm so grateful."

Wednesday Group: Inclusivity & Trips

From Women's Group to Wednesday Group

Pausing & Restarting: Sessions paused for 6 months before Carolyn restarted in January 2026 with energy and new ideas. 10 sessions delivered Jan–Mar, supporting 46 unique individuals with 103 total attendances, including women-only health sessions with MESMAC, music workshops with LUUMIC students, parenting course and energy advice courses with Hawa Dal and Green Doctor, plus card-making, sewing repairs, and an International Women's Day toiletries distribution.

Gender Inclusivity: Transitioned from Women's Group to the Wednesday Group, open to all genders **based on feedback received in our strategy**.

Trips & Partnership Workshops: Since restarting the Wednesday Group, we've run outdoor trips and partner workshops, including a Yorkshire Dales trip, Christmas crafts workshop with St Bar Church and the Leeds Industrial Museum tour.



English Language Classes



Functional Skills for Daily Life

Our ESOL classes focus on conversational and daily task language, healthcare, shopping, transit, and emergency services, to fast-track integration for students from 52+ nationalities.

28-30

students
Mondays

10-12

students
Wednesdays

3

teachers
Monday team



New Teachers: Rick (September) and Sophia (November) joined, both qualified ESOL teachers. Teaching assistants Linda and Helen support sessions.

Looking ahead: 3 differentiated ability levels with language assessments to track student progress.

"The teacher is patient and kind. That helps me believe in myself."

The Heartbeat: Our Volunteers



System Upgrades

In line with our wider strategic development, we strengthened volunteer systems, launching an online application form and a digital sign-in/sign-out system to improve record-keeping. We also introduced a structured Volunteer Training Plan covering safeguarding, health & safety, confidentiality, food hygiene, and the refugee and asylum context.



A diverse team

65 volunteers this year (up from 60), including 31 beneficiaries who volunteer alongside local community members. Together, they bring lived experience, peer empathy, language skills, and a shared commitment that strengthens everything we do.



Student Placements

Students from Leeds Beckett, Leeds Trinity, and Pro Bono Community joined us, making our service more holistic.



"Since I have been with Meeting Point, I have had the chance to collaborate with an active, caring team."



Voices of Progress

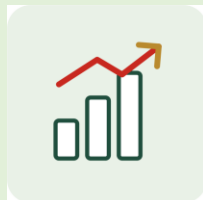
In May 2026, we asked beneficiaries directly how we're doing against our 2026–2029 strategy.



96%

Safety

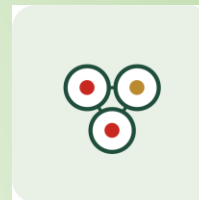
feel safe when they are at Meeting Point



86%

Empowerment

feel more confident because of our help



86%

Connection

feel part of the community here

"It's our home, it makes people united. If you are alone, you can come here and automatically feel a little bit happier because you are with people."

— May 2026 Beneficiary Survey

Looking Ahead

As we look to the year ahead, our focus remains simple: to continue offering a safe, welcoming and supportive space for refugees and people seeking asylum in Leeds.

We will build on the progress made this year, strengthening our partnerships, sustaining our services, and ensuring Meeting Point remains responsive to changing needs. In a challenging external environment, we remain committed to maintaining stability, dignity and connection at the heart of everything we do.

Guided by our new 2026–2029 strategy — Safety, Empowerment and Connection — shaped by the people we support.

Together, we move forward with hope.

Thank You

Our deepest gratitude goes to our volunteers, staff, trustees, partners, and generous funders who make Meeting Point a resilient lifeline of kindness.



*"You gave us safety, food, and friendship,
but more than that, you gave us hope."*

(Christ Church Armley Community Projects Ltd)

Registered Charity Number: 1120950 | Company Number: 05751987 | Leeds, West Yorkshire