

# Social inclusion trip to Birmingham Library & the Christmas Market



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The final social inclusion event of 2016 was a trip to the Birmingham Library and the German Christmas market. Myself, Amy and our recent new addition to the team, Ayaan, met with a group of tenants and learners at ACH at 12 o'clock. Ayaan is our volunteer and has been supporting the Wolverhampton branch in all areas of the support we offer for the last 2 months. She said:

"I came to ACH because I wanted to gain an insight into helping refugees and vulnerable adults. I have a passion for immigration law and would like to expand my understanding of the problems they face. The most enjoying part of my experience so far has been getting to know the tenants, especially during the social inclusion events."

At ACH we think it is really important to keep our tenants and learners up to date with local activities that they can have access to and because of this we combined our social inclusion activity with attaining other valuable skills.

Before heading to the station we made a pit stop at the City of Sanctuary's drop-in centre. We introduced the group to this weekly activity where they can practice their English and get to know local people. This is a good way of helping them to develop their English skills. Secondly, on arrival at the train station we ensured that the tenants were able to purchase their own train tickets. This is because we always want to encourage our tenants to be independent.

We headed to Birmingham New Street station and then walked to the library. We began by touring all floors of the library, ending at the top floor at the Shakespeare memorial room. Here we introduced the tenants to Shakespeare. We encouraged the tenants to browse and understand how to use the library by going on a book hunt! The person who managed to find the book in the quickest time won the book hunt and received a well earned pat on the back... We finished our time in the library by enjoying the views on the balcony and taking a few snaps.

We then headed down to the German Christmas Market to enjoy the seasonal atmosphere together. We browsed the stores and some even danced along to the festive music. By this point, our bellies were rumbling so we headed to Shawarma City Restaurant to have some food together. We enjoyed our delicious meal and then headed back out to the Christmas market before making our way home.

In the New Year we will be organising many more social inclusion events for our tenants and learners in order to continue supporting their journey to integration.

