



Sunrise Diversity Local Goes Global Report 2021-2022

 **Celebrate Diversity**

 **Change Attitudes**

 **Challenge Discrimination**



Sunrise provides activities, services and events for people living across Northern Devon with diverse identities and ethnicities and also works in the wider community to celebrate diversity, change attitudes and challenge discrimination. Our aim is that all people in Northern Devon are accepted and respected within a truly inclusive, supportive and welcoming community.

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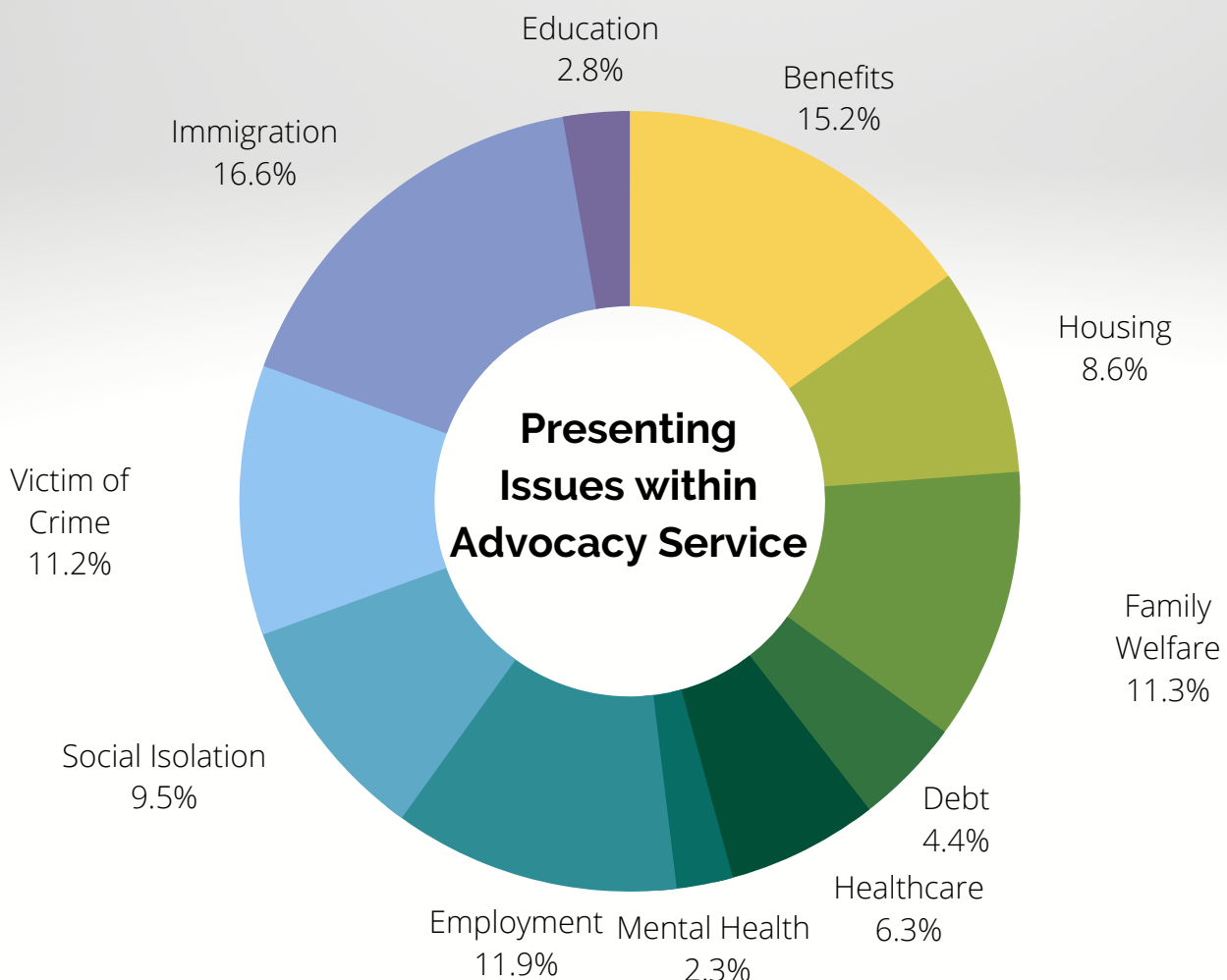
Support Services

The direct activities and services Sunrise provides are guided by the needs of individuals and in the last 12 months we have provided advocacy, skills and knowledge activities, English Language activities and social opportunities.

Advocacy support for 50+ families

32 different countries of birth

12 different ethnicities



“

Before had many many problems not know what is going on. Very stressed many, many things to do. Now I know you and talk to you often have help from you and other people who help me. I'm better not scared. I feel I'm not alone. If I don't know I can ask you or other people so I'm not alone. I felt flustered. Very hard before because too much to deal with. Now it look like nearly the end and it's good step and I feel better. I'm happy more.

We have supported individuals to

Secure Housing - Access Domestic Abuse Services - Obtain food, clothing, beds, hygiene products - Challenge discrimination at work - Manage finances - Access benefits - Access Healthcare - Secure employment - Secure immigration status etc.

“

If I didn't speak to her [support worker] I probably would not of been here. You need someone to point you to the right direction you need someone to help with this. All the time I tell people how you help me to understand what I can ask for.

23 different first languages spoken by beneficiaries

Including...

Bulgarian	Arabic	Tamil
Vietnamese	German	Thai
Portuguese	Kurdish	Polish
Hungarian	Russian	Bengali
Egyptian	English	Slovakian
Swedish	Spanish	Romanian
Urdu	Mandarin	Latvian
Italian	Japanese	

“

[Without interpreters]...I would not be able to tell you about the abuse I and my child have experienced by my husband if you did not use an interpreter.

I can speak and understand some English but I can not express how he has treated me in your language (English). I can only tell you really how I feel in my own.

We use professional interpreters for all of our advocacy.

Unfortunately many agencies including some statutory services do not adopt this policy and family members or online apps are used when they meet or communicate with beneficiaries.

We continue to challenge agencies that fail to provide interpretation.

Lived Experience

Kim's Story

- Victim of domestic abuse
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
- No Recourse to Public Funds
- Lonely and Isolated
- Insecure Immigration status
- Poverty - living on £20 per week



Sunrise have really helped me so much you have changed our lives.



Sunrise supported Kim to access:

- Domestic abuse services
- Immigration advice
- Employment advice
- Food, clothing & bedding
- Social opportunities to reduce isolation etc.

Amelia's Story

- Disclosed that her partner was monitoring and controlling her daily
- Poor mental health and self harm
- No Recourse to Public Funds
- Lonely and Isolated
- Poverty
- Insecure immigration service



Sunrise supported Kim to access:

- Domestic abuse services
- Mental health services
- Support and advice from GP
- Beds and bedding for children
- Social opportunities to reduce isolation etc.



Taz's Story

Taz approached Sunrise for support following racist comments she and her family had experienced whilst accessing another agency's service. Taz was very upset and didn't know what to do. Taz came to the decision that she wanted Sunrise to support her in contacting the agency and explain the situation. The agency came back to Sunrise and said that they had supported individuals with diverse identities previously and there had never been any incidents. Taz's concerns were not investigated and the agency suggested that perhaps it was Taz and her family's behaviour that was the issue. Taz decided not to challenge this any further as she was concerned about the repercussions and felt she would be treated unfairly.



I feel better, calmer
now



Taz and her family were in an incredibly precarious situation and Sunrise obtained advice from national and specialist agencies on the family's situation. The advice of the specialist agencies was to not challenge any further with the agency over the failure to investigate the racist incident given the precarious situation. The Sunrise worker found this direction difficult to accept as there was clear discrimination from the agency but the advice of the specialist service and Taz's wishes were followed.

The Sunrise worker continued to advocate and support Taz through this difficult period and with interactions with the agency. Taz is now in a much more positive position, she is now attending English Language activities and has not experienced any further racist incidents.

Improving Wellbeing

Connect - Be Active - Notice - Learn - Give

80+ English
Language
Activities

Skills and
Knowledge
Sessions in 4
market towns

Social groups
throughout
the year

60+ people
attended
wellbeing
activities

Walking Group “



If it wasn't for this group I wouldn't go out for a walk on my own

“

Having a group makes you feel less isolated. To be with people who have shared the same experiences you have an instant connection.

English and Skills and Knowledge Sessions

“ English classes It made me feel more confident and I got new friends, I became easier to communicate with English.



Meet & Do Group - face to face and online social group



“

At Meet and Do I have met other people. For health reasons I can't go out and meeting online help me to feel happier. I have been able to know, share and learn from other people. I feel my life is better.

We asked individuals about the support they received from Sunrise?

“

Feel much happier the way I feel now is so different. We had nothing we didn't know how to do the benefits, child benefits all the support we got we managed to do everything.

“

So much better I would say 100% better. Before I felt like others were making decisions for my life now I have support to make choices.

“

Only Sunrise helping me and I'm very grateful.

“

Since my husband passed away I have lots of things to solve. Sunrise helping me to do things, save money by paying less on services, taxes, etc, Also, now I have national insurance number.

“

If I don't know I can ask you or other people. so I'm not alone. I felt flustered. Very hard before because too much to deal with. Now it look like nearly the end and it's good step and I feel better. I'm happy more.

“

When you have such dedicated teachers and they are working with desire, creating a wonderful atmosphere during the lesson, you realize that English is not an unattainable goal.

Volunteers

We are very fortunate to have some wonderful volunteers at Sunrise. Here is a comment from a beneficiary about one of our volunteers.....

“

For me personally [volunteer] is wonderful person!!!

She is always kind,considerate,responsive and ready to help you in any way she can!!!

To me she is a person devoted to her work,because she does everything with love!!!

The diligence she puts in to help,the time she spends for us,without being paid,all this work speaks for herself how valuable a person we have around us!!!

The most important thing you can do for someone is to set aside time to him!!!

She does it constantly for us without asking for anything in return!!!This is proof of a person with a big heart!!!Such people are rare today!And they are priceless!!!

I want to say a huge THANK YOU and let her know that for sure all this work is fully appreciated!!!!

Celebrating Diversity Changing Attitudes Challenging Discrimination

Facilitated 50+
activities

Engaged with
200+ young
people

7000+ Online
Engagements

Engaged with
40+
organisations

Our wider community work focuses on celebrating diversity, changing attitudes and challenging discrimination. We have worked with schools, professionals and partners and we have delivered wider community events within Northern Devon. With Covid we have been unable to deliver as many face to face activities as we would have liked but we have looked for other ways to engage and carry on our work.

Workshops - What will you take away?



“

Valuing all people for who they are, and the diversity they bring to our experiences and life.

“

The science of prejudice, who knew!

“

Reflect on own prejudices and thoughts.

“

I will try to challenge my own and other people's thinking.

“

Question my unconscious bias.

“

I want everyone to have this training.

Training provided to
partner agencies and
professional
organisations Attended
by 40+ individuals

Community Engagement

“

Interesting and hope inspiring conversation



Some of the activities delivered

Black History Month

African Dance

Winter Celebrations Around the World

LGBT+ History Month

Hate Crime Awareness

International Women's Day

Lived experience discussions

Awareness Raising

Being a Hindu in the UK

Pride

and much, much more.....



“ Really informative

“ Open discussion around common misconceptions

“ Thought provoking

“

Helped the children have a better understanding about diversity.

Thank You

Summary from Chief Executive Officer

This has been another busy and challenging year for everyone at Sunrise. Covid continued to impact our work and plans, but one of our strengths as an organisation is our ability to quickly respond and adapt to changing needs and situations accordingly.

As an organisation we are confident of our impact supporting individuals but it is difficult to communicate outcomes statistically due to the wide and varied range of our work. Over the last year we have trialled using standardised and adapted tools such as the Warwick Edinburgh Scale to measure the impact of our work on the wellbeing of individuals. These methods were not practical for a variety of reasons, for example, individuals who were often experiencing significant crisis within their lives reported positive wellbeing when asked the questions which was clearly contradictory to the discussions and feelings they expressed to the Support Workers. We made the decision to ask more open questions which the Support Workers felt were most appropriate to ask individuals in relation to their wellbeing. We are currently working with an external evaluator to develop this area of our evaluation.

The Sunrise team often support individuals in crisis which can be emotionally draining and upsetting. Our staff are passionate about their work and supporting individuals, but often face barriers and obstacles at an institutional level. These severely impact upon the people we support increasing their reliance on our service to overcome these barriers in a way that the public and private sector fail to do. How the current cost of living crisis will impact upon the people we support in the coming months is hard to judge at this point but we remain confident in our abilities to provide the vital help that the diverse communities of Northern Devon need alongside our wider community work challenging discrimination, changing attitudes and celebrating diversity.



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Currently under construction