

# REMAS HE

Refugee Education, Mentoring and Support in HE

Cherie Woolmer

Nicky Conlan

Stephen Silverwood

# Background

- University of Brighton and University of Sussex pilot activities 2003-2004
  - Refugees into Higher Education, Community University Partnership Programme (CUPP)
  - Ways into Learning, Centre for Continuing Education (CCE)
- Action research and dissemination event with community partners in December 2003- highlighted need for joint service
- 2004-to date: Aimhigher funding secured to deliver service

# Key features of REMAS HE

- Portfolio of activities including,
  - pre-entry IAG, advocacy, access to academic advisors, Ways into Learning and Work course, peer support sessions, mentoring
- Geographic scope includes Brighton and Hove, Hastings, Crawley
- Refugee Outreach Workers in Brighton and Hastings

# Community partnership

- Involved throughout development and delivery phases
- Input into governance of project with community partner Chairing the steering group
- Mutual referrals
- Development of joint activities such as mentoring

















# Impact

- Increase in numbers of local refugees accessing HE
- Spin-off partnerships (i.e. Timebank mentoring; Research with refugees; HERAN)
- Demonstrable impact on practice within institutions i.e. admissions, student support, language support on course
- Highlights gaps in local provision i.e. higher level language provision

# Lessons learned

- Benefits of partnership working especially the two universities working together
- That partnership with a community agency can mean many different things to different agencies and that representation on a steering group can be lip-service
- Genuine partnership means appropriate involvement and mutual respect
- Partnerships are between people not agencies and depend on commitment and qualities of individuals for their success