



Baher Al Abd- SWIA Project Coordinator

The Report collects the answers of the SWIA's partner organisations to the questions in the reporting template provided by the JTI, and some reflections from the project coordinator on the performance of the project overall, as well as on the answers provided by partners.

This report is organised as follows. It begins with the project coordinator's reflection on the performance of the project and partners' answers, then each question provided in the template will have 6 answers followed. The answers are the responses of the 6 partners' organisations to the questions: Bristol Law Centre, Refugee Support Devon (RSD), Devon and Cornwall Refugee Support (DCRS), Plymouth Hope, Bristol Refugee Rights, Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers and The Harbour Project. Given the different capacity of the University of Plymouth Law Clinic's involvement in the Project, their response is recorded differently at the end of this report.

Reflection from the Project Coordinator:

Despite having a slow start, this project has achieved great progress so far. Partner organisations mostly did not have existing relationships prior to the project. However, over the last year (since July 2023), these relationships have started and greatly improved. Through partners' meetings and strategic discussions, in addition to partners' enthusiasm, the project is finally up on its feet.

Over the last year, we aimed to enhance our internal communication. This resulted in creating several hubs for sharing information and practice, namely a shared drive where partners can store and access information and documents, as well as groups for sharing announcements and peer support. Most importantly, informal visits between partners have been taking place, which is allowing them to learn from each other and develop better working relations. We continue to explore ways that further support our shared work to reach our shared objectives. This is either through strengthening our relationships with other legal providers in the region, or by working on becoming a strategic influential voice in the Southwest.

Partner organisations particularly found organised in-person discussions useful. The peer support and sharing practice these meetings offered were of an immense benefit to partners. As a result of several partners meetings, the partnership has been preliminarily exploring ways in which they can contribute to increasing access to immigration advice in the Southwest. This conversation is crucial, and it took a great amount of effort to be reached. However, by focusing on enhancing internal and external referral pathways, the partnership has decided to contribute to enhancing access to immigration advice primarily via standardising their referral system to a high quality to encourage other legal providers to accept cases from them. To support this shared goal, the BLC has offered and will continue to offer training session to SWIA partners.

However, the progress we achieved has not been an easy process. Partner organisations continue to struggle with capacity. Although all partners are committed to working together, strategic discussions often struggle to be prioritised over day-to-day operational work for organisations. Moreover, as structural as it, there remains many issues that hinder our partner organisations' progress in improving their legal advice capacity. The lack of supervision, difficulty to recruit and the limited funding continue to pose a challenge to more accessible immigration advice provision in the Southwest. The answers below will reflect a more detailed account for partners' individual situations.

Moreover, although the project had different priorities during the time of writing the funding application such as creating a solidified project with funding and internal governance structures, the last few months demonstrated that the project benefits much more from mere communications that allow partner organisations to share their work and discuss their casework. Partner organisations are much more in favour of discussion sessions and peer support. Accordingly, the project coordinator's initial job description has changed accordingly to support the project and meet partner organisations' needs.

Formally now called the 'Southwest Immigration Alliance (SWIA), it has been truly rewarding to see the progress of this project over the last year. We are a much more ambitious, determined and consolidated project compared to where we began. And this is only the beginning.

Highlights on Partners' Answers:

- Organisations presented varying reporting skills, some being able to capture relevant information more than others.
- Referrals among partners in Bristol, Swindon and Gloucester have noticeably improved. This has been beneficial for these organisations.
- There is a constant increase in service demand due to the increased dispersal to the Southwest, which is putting a great pressure on partners in Devon and Cornwall.
- The grant allowed partner organisations to offer support to larger numbers of service users.
- Improved relationships, sharing practices and internal referrals have been the most successful aspect of the project so far.
- Partners who could recruit staff as part of the project managed to improve their capacity.
- Being part of the project offered partners more capacity to engage in advocacy work.
- Organisations face similar challenges around high demand, limited capacity, funding shortage and supervision.
- There is a historical issue (before the start of this project) between two organisations in Devon and Cornwall that is causing difficulties to work together in the project and improve referrals between them.
- Organisations are actively seeking an anti-racist and lived-experience approach to work in different ways, including recruiting people with lived experience of migration in the UK and from different backgrounds, updating existing EDI policies, seeking additional training and ensuring constant negotiations on how to perform better in these aspects.
- The Bristol Law Centre is also seeking support to develop an anti-racist Action Plan for the project.
- Suggestions on how to improve the JTI initiative include supporting the attraction of more funding, and offering organisations support in funding applications.

Below, each table compiles the answers of the 6 partners organisations in SWIA to the questions in the reporting template provided by the JTI. The reason for incorporating these answers is that, although the project coordinator has awareness of partners' situation, it is important to grasp their own perspective for a much deeper understanding of the project's progress. The BLC's answers were added by both the CEO, the project coordinator and the immigration team at the BLC who are involved in the project. The university of Plymouth Law clinic did not provide answers to these questions.

1. How many posts have you been able to recruit/fund with the grant (people actually in posts FTE)? Of those how many people have lived experience of the immigration system?				
Organisation	Number of Roles	Part-time/full time proportion	Does the person have lived experience of the immigration system? Yes, no, does not want to say, other	Type of Role: Advice, Management, Admin, Influencing, other - please clarify
Bristol Law Centre	2	0.7/0.5	Yes both	Advice & Coordination
Refugee Support Devon	2	Both 0.5	Only one	Advice
Devon & Cornwall Refugee Support	1	0.6	yes	Advice
Plymouth Hope	2	Both 0.6	Both	Advice/Advice & admin
Bristol Refugee Rights	-	-	-	-
Gloucestershire Action for Refugees & Asylum Seekers	1	0.3	Yes	Advice
The Harbour Project	We were able to use the money to contribute to the pay costs of a new team member - our Junior Advisor. The money from JTI met 50% of the pay costs of this role.			
	The person appointed to the role has Lived Experience of the asylum system, having been granted Leave to Remain in May 2022. Prior to			

	<p>becoming our Junior Advisor, this person had part-time roles with us as a Reception and Youth Lead.</p> <p>Able to speak Kurdish, Farsi and English, Micael was already spending more of his time in the Advice room, supporting our front-line Advice Team, helping with translation, help and advice. He has rapidly learned the nuances of many UK systems and was promoted to Junior Advisor in Autumn 2023.</p>
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2.1 How many people have you been able to assist as a result of the grant?	
Bristol Law Centre	<p>Currently BLC has agreed to take referrals from three partner organisations: GARAS, Harbour Project and BRR. We started to have panel meetings to discuss referrals with those partners at the end of November/beginning of December 2023. We have had 26 referrals, many of them have not been within the scope of the JTI, so a lot of the work we have been doing is to clarify and skill up caseworkers with knowledge to understand the type of cases that are out of scope of LA and within the remit of the JTI funding.</p> <p>We have formally taken 4 referrals and 2 are still in working progress, i.e. need more information but likely to take them on.</p>
Refugee Support Devon	<p>Because of the changes in asylum dispersal and initial accommodation hotels our drop in and immigration advice service saw a large increase on the previous year. The most significant change was the high number of asylum seekers we now give advice to. Prior to 2023 Exeter and the surrounding area was not an asylum dispersal zone for the Home Office. Now we host one of the largest IA hotels housing single women and family groups. Although we do have two part time members of staff dedicated to supporting the hotel residents the additional work created for our drop in service was very significant. 163 individuals attended over 700 interviews / consultations with our team during the period 1st August 2023 to 31st March 2024</p>
Devon & Cornwall Refugee Support	192 people per year for 0.8 FTE Caseworker
Plymouth Hope	<p>Casework Undertaken:</p> <p>We have provided asylum casework advice support to 178 people since the beginning of the project. We have received around 72 emails and phone calls were received and answered related to asylum advice. All were signposted to the local Red Cross office and DCRS for further advice to do with finding solicitors. DCRS has access to the local legal aid provider database to identify who already has been</p>

	<p>allocated an adviser.</p> <p>Immigration related queries (Non-Asylum):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 12 cases were undertaken related to EEA nationals, Settled status queries. - Off these, 6 were signposted to the IOM legal adviser who deals with Settled status/EEA case. - Off those 3 were referred to the IOM worker - 5 family reunion outside the rule’s cases supported and referrals made to firms outside Plymouth. - 4 British citizenship cases were undertaken (guidance were provided and relevant forms printed and given to the beneficiary - 9 International students visa queries were delt with (all case needed advice to switch from their tier 4 visa to skilled worker’s visa - 21 calls were answered querying about obtaining skilled workers visa and mostly needing sponsorship (a CoS). - 7 visa extension queries (3 had discretionary leave to remain linked/granted based on article 8/family life) were dealt with and referrals were made to other organisations due to the complexity of cases. <p>OISC advice queries & signposting:</p> <p>Being an OISC registered organisation, we have dealt with many cases and information request via phone and email. We have only counted cases where we have done a sign posting to the local law clinic, migrant legal project, former Fursdon and Knapper solicitors and other law firms outside the city.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 64 cases were sign posted (all non-asylum cases) - We received around 60 other calls and emails where we simply replied that the advice needed is above our capacity.
<p>Bristol Refugee Rights</p>	<p>We have referred 11 people to BLC through the pathway enabled by JTI – the law centre has taken on 4 of these cases with another 4 cases still under review where BRR is doing work with the members to get information and documents needed (e.g. SAR, accessing medical and financial records).</p> <p>Part funding of an Advice Worker and a contribution to management costs has helped us keep our advice service operating. This service has supported 876 people in the last 12 months.</p>
<p>Gloucestershire Action for Refugees & Asylum Seekers</p>	<p>we are seeing at least 60 a drop-in three times a week and this post is assisting that drop in and support so maybe that 1/3 post covers at least 100 people</p>
<p>The Harbour Project</p>	<p>Since 1st Aug 2023 we have provided 447 advice sessions in relation to legal support/ finding a solicitor/ bundling papers for review by prospective solicitors/ helping our clients to contact a solicitor.</p>

2.2 What types of immigration advice/law/area of law are you supporting people with?	
Bristol Law Centre	<p>Area(s) of Law International Protection; Detention (only as part of main immigration matter), Deportation and Removal; Domestic Violence - SET (DV); EU Settlement Scheme; Indefinite Leave to Remain; Nationality; NRPF/Change of conditions; Private and family life; Trafficking/Modern slavery</p> <p>Service Users British Overseas Nationals; Undocumented; Asylum seekers; Refugees ; Victims/survivors of domestic abuse EU Nationals Windrush</p>
Refugee Support Devon	<p>Area(s) of Law International Protection; Domestic Violence - SET (DV); Indefinite Leave to Remain; NRPF/Change of conditions; Private and family life; Refugee family reunification; Trafficking/Modern slavery</p> <p>Service Users Undocumented; Asylum seekers; Refugees; Victims/survivors of domestic abuse</p>
Devon & Cornwall Refugee Support	<p>Area(s) of Law Detention, Deportation and Removal; Domestic Violence - SET (DV); EU Settlement Scheme; Indefinite Leave to Remain; Nationality; NRPF/Change of conditions; Private and family life; Refugee family reunification; Trafficking/Modern slavery</p> <p>Service Users British Overseas Nationals; Undocumented; Asylum seekers; Refugees; Victims/survivors of domestic abuse; EU National</p>
Plymouth Hope	<p>Area (s) of Law International protection Work limited at OISC level 1 including Asylum Guide; Pre & Post asylum interview support-Signposting and referrals; Change of Condition (for non-protection cases); Nationality (for non-protection cases); Private and family life – Triage and referrals only; Indefinite Leave to remain – non protection cases only; EU Settlement scheme; Nationality</p> <p>Service Users British Overseas Nationals; Undocumented; Asylum seekers; Refugees; Victims/survivors of domestic abuse; EU Nationals;</p>
Bristol Refugee Rights	<p>Area(s) of Law International Protection; Domestic Violence - SET (DV); NRPF/Change of conditions; Private and family life; Trafficking/Modern slavery</p>

	Service Users Undocumented; Asylum seekers; Refugees; Victims/survivors of domestic abuse
Gloucestershire Action for Refugees & Asylum Seekers	International protection and Family Reunion with asylum seekers and newly granted refugees, victims of domestic abuse and some undocumented. Across all the work GARAS does we are supporting towards SET(DV), NRPf (No Recourse to Public Funds), Trafficking.
The Harbour Project	The Harbour Project primarily supports with Asylum and Protection cases. The case-work element of the project has allowed us to give focus to some of our more complex casework where someone's story may straddle a number of immigration routes and therefore is likely to be out of scope of Legal Aid. For example, people with family ties in the UK or people who have been in the UK for more than 20 years.

3. Please tell us about what you have achieved with the funding over the past year, what has gone well	
Bristol Law Centre	Meeting face to face with new partners – new relationships, feeling of support and hopefulness Stronger collaboration and sharing practice. Dedicated project worker has been amazing and essential to the success so far Development of ideas and focus which the grant and its flexibility have enabled – better equipping us to respond to changing needs. We have delivered training sessions, taken more referrals. The coordinator has also been working the partners on developing a webpage for the project on their websites, external comms plan, and funding mapping. A key achievement is the new peer support group which is offering partners access to peer advice on casework and referrals. We received very positive feedback on this.
Refugee Support Devon	The development of the South West Immigration Alliance (SWIA) has been a positive and unexpected outcome of the JTI funding and the associated additional training made available to SWIA partners, provided by the Bristol Law Centre has been very practical and useful. A recent SWIA meeting introduced us to the work being done by the Public Law Project in relation to law firms with capacity to take on cases / matter starts. This was practical and very useful. Being able to underwrite the two part-time immigration advice roles that we have for our drop in service has been crucial as we struggle to get funding to secure this core service.
Devon & Cornwall Refugee Support	- Better relationships with organisations in the SW - Pathways being developed - Support from other organisations and advice
Plymouth Hope	Advocacy We have continued through staff members funded by the project to actively engage in the local asylum seekers and refugee's network. We have supported five service users to contact their local MP to get some support with their cases. Development work Training We have made some good progress with our development part of the project. We have successfully identified an OISC level 1 person who is

	<p>also a trainer who has over 20 years of experience in delivering asylum and immigration casework. We engaged all our staff members, a total of six people who all attended the first few sessions of the casework training to give everyone the basic of advice casework, doing a triage, understanding sing posting and referrals. Three people were then selected to continue with the training with the aim to do their OISC level one exam in March 2024. OISC supervision To enable our staff to meet the requirements to do the OISC assessment, we have managed to add her on our list of OISC advisers with the OISC and the OISC have approved for her to provide training and supervise our staff members who are working toward doing their OISC assessment. Internal referrals: Project staff have made referrals to other projects within Plymouth Hope. 170 families referred to PH wellbeing and Future youth programmes. Staff have also been involved in setting up a digital hub. The digital hub purpose is for service users to keep busy during their time at the office as they wait to see an adviser. Referrals and partnership links: Positive and work undertaken: 1-Plymouth Hope has a five-year history of an established referrals pathway between the British Red Cros refugee support team and our advice team. The Red Cross welcome newly arrived asylum seekers in Plymouth within their 48 hours and they referral them to us within one week through our asylum guide programme. This has been working well and has been improved thanks to a joint training initiative we have had with the Red Cross. Over the last six months, we have had a total of five staff members from Plymouth Hope and five staff members from Red Cross who have been doing a weekly face to face training session with a trainer covering all the OISC level 1 handbook, casework practice and a preparation toward doing their OISC exam. Staff members have got to know each other better and as a result the overall collaboration between the two organisations has improved and has benefited the referral mechanism between us. We have seen a rise in non-asylum referrals as well from them. 2-We have recently started collaborating better with the law clinic and staff members have already discussed setting up a formal referral’s pathway. They have also discussed the possibility to support each other with difficult cases through shadowing initiatives and joint casework meetings medals. 3- During this period, we have also worked on drawing and revising the list of law firms and pro bono legal advisers we can make referrals to. This is now saved and at the disposal of all advisers.</p>
<p>Bristol Refugee Rights</p>	<p>We have established a new referral pathway with Bristol Law Centre, building on our existing co-working model and expending it into new areas of laws. Being part of the partnership has strengthened our relationships with other advice providers in the region. Other providers have visited our team and we intend to visit other projects to learn from the</p>

	<p>systems and processes that they use to manage their advice work and use this as part of developing our own best practice. Through the partnership we have accessed additional training for our team which is helping to develop best practice amongst partners in the South West.</p> <p>The legal referral pathways for members to access out of scope legal advice from BLC has allowed some of our most vulnerable members, with complex mental health issues and immigration history's to access legal advice and regularise their status. Without this project it is unlikely that these members would have been able to access legal advice and they would have remained at risk of deportation from the UK. The partnership has helped facilitate our relationship with national organisations who are doing work to challenge the lack of access to legal advice through legal aid for asylum seekers and those in the immigration system. Through links developed by this partnership we have joined a national organising group focussed on challenging the crisis in legal aid and have strengthened our links with PLP to make sure that data from our work can support their legal challenge of the lord chancellor</p>
<p>Gloucestershire Action for Refugees & Asylum Seekers</p>	<p>Working with Bristol Law Centre we are working to help some clients to access legal support, no full outcomes yet. Other positives are working more closely together across the SW organisations.</p>
<p>The Harbour Project</p>	<p>For The Harbour Project, there have been 5 areas of achievement/ progress with project:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The ability to fund and create a new role of Junior Advisor, specifically for someone with Lived Experience. This creates a career progression path in a supportive environment, as well as easing the workload on the rest of the Advice team. This person has grown in confidence and ability and it is a career path that we hope to replicate in the future. 2) working with BLC, we have been able to refer complex cases that are outside the scope of Legal Aid. Many of these cases have been around for some while and we have struggled to find legal representation. 3) Networking and learning with other refugee support charities in the region. Whilst we came into contact with many of these organisations in the course of day to day operations, often attending the same meetings with the Home Office or other agencies, we hadn't previously invested time in visiting them face-to-face and sharing learnings and experience. We have adapted a number of our operational processes based on insight from these visits. As trust has built, partners have been more willing to share information - such as around capacity of solicitors. We definitely see this is as something that can deepen in time - potentially making single representations on behalf of all members of the alliance (saving time and amplifying our individual voices) and sharing impact and assessment methodologies for example. 4) Enhancing our own legal literacy. 2023 was a tough year for us - asylum streamlined questionnaires, followed by an increase in f2f interviews and refusals, all in the context of a very bleak legal Aid landscape. Having to repeatedly explain to our clients that we cannot find legal representation feels pretty impotent. The steps we are taking to improve our Legal Literacy (including training sessions led by BLC) has helped to put us on the front-foot, and more in control of our work-stack and better able to support our people. In addition, the Alliance has also created a peer-support group, allowing for sharing of knowledge and expertise around specific cases. This has been really helpful.

5) The Harbour Project, along with a number of other members of the Alliance, are also participating in work with the Public Law Project (also funded by JTI). It feels as if we can be part of something bigger - not just a small charity inwardly focused on Swindon. This gives great development, learning and exposure for our team, along with the belief that we are part of something bigger and not alone in the challenges that we (and our clients) face.

4. Please tell us about any challenges or things that went less well and any learning you have so far.	
Bristol Law Centre	Development work was essential to the project and meant it could start without delay - but with things always changing for the region and partners, and new partnerships taking time there have been challenges. Moreover, partner organisations come from diverse experiential backgrounds and sizes, which meant that the project's progress had to adapt to these variations. Some organisations also have better experience in partnership work more than others, which meant that collaboration was difficult at times. Although we made good progress, internal communication still requires work.
Refugee Support Devon	The increase in OISC advisors in the South West as an objective cannot be considered without including at least a conversation about supervision. This is especially important when considering a move to OISC level 2. A solution cannot always be found and as a partnership we did agree that this is a significant challenge for organisations wishing to take their advisors to level 2.
Devon & Cornwall Refugee Support	The funding received is insufficient to make a fast impact to those we serve. We need additional income to hire more staff to have the breathing space to develop the services and departments needed to serve the people in our region.
Plymouth Hope	Before the start of this project, we had some funding from comic relief via refugee action to fund our asylum guide work. The three funding was not continued for all the 6 organisations. So, we have had the asylum guide work that had to be undertaken by this project's new staff members. So, we had a bit of delay to get going with setting up the perimeters for this project as staff continued with the delivery of asylum guide that is always busy. However, as per stats we have now managed to kick start the delivery of non-asylum as well as out of scope advice work. Referrals: Plymouth Hope are the only lived experience founded and led organisation with OISC level 1 currently. Despite our effort to strengthen collaboration with all partners which has been successful, we still have a challenge to set up a referral pathway with DCRS. This is challenging because being at the centre of advice in the city and being part of this project, there has been a lot of time wasting and especially service users being frustrated due to a lack of collaboration between caseworkers. The management of DCRS need to look at rectifying this for the sake of service users.
Bristol Refugee Rights	Due to the crisis in legal aid the vast majority of our members continue to struggle to access legal advice. Due to the level of demand for our support far outstripping BRR's capacity we are having to make difficult decisions about what work we will take on and who we will

	support to access legal advice as we cannot do this for all our members. BRR’s advice team continues to under-utilise the fact that BRR is OISC registered partly because of issues in getting adequate supervision and support in place and partly because it is hard to see an area of legal advice where we could use our OISC work to have an impact for members without being completely overwhelmed by demand.
Gloucestershire Action for Refugees & Asylum Seekers	Challenges it feels early days so still waiting for any outcomes for those we have referred into BLC
The Harbour Project	I think it took a little while for the project to gain traction and for participants to understand its scope and boundaries, and to fully appreciate the value of collaborative working. On hindsight, maybe this is to be expected as charities are particularly time-starved and will always given priority to front-line work.

5. What have you been doing in relation to anti-racism?	
Bristol Law Centre	We have been looking for consultants and asking others about approaches and integration with our already strong EDI. We have continued to challenge ourselves internally following BLM work, reviewing policy, raising with trustees, and looking at ways to challenge and promote on social media. Under ED&I, our recruitment process in particular has continued to change as we keep learning and with now having a CIPD leader in place – both for staff members and for Trustees.
Refugee Support Devon	We have increased the numbers of staff and volunteers with lived experience of the asylum system in the UK. We are reviewing all of our policies and have taken advice from the Plymouth and Devon Racial Equality Council (PDREC) on how to improve our diversity and inclusion policy.
Devon & Cornwall Refugee Support	We have worked hard over the last 2 years to change our board to get people from various backgrounds to provide an opinion and steer our organisation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We are developing clearer feedback processes to ensure we are doing a good job. - We have developed anti-racism training primarily for our volunteers currently and are developing training for our staff.
Plymouth Hope	We have been one of the leading organisations supporting the sector with the anti-racism agenda. Over the last few months, we have made our EDI and cultural competence trainings available to the sector. We have provided EDI trainings to about 10 care homes with a large population of refugees to ensure these refugees are welcome and well-treated. Internally, we have reviewed our anti-racism agenda which now include a three-monthly refresher course for all staff and volunteers. We

	<p>have also reviewed our recruitment policy both for paid staff and volunteers with the option to select a volunteer to be on interview panels. We have also made a trial of blind recruitment during our recent recruitment.</p>
Bristol Refugee Rights	<p>We already have a well-developed EDI policy which includes strong reference to anti-racism. This is well embedded and complemented by good practice. However, there is always room for improvement. We have a number of specific EDI and anti-racism objectives built into our organisational strategic plan. Progress on these this year has included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased training for staff - Specific budget for training for staff with lived experience (usually racialized minority groups) - Seeking out new places to advertise jobs and volunteer opportunities outside our ‘bubble’ <p>Next year we have contracted BRAP.org.uk to carry out a cultural audit of our workplace and for consultancy on embedding and improving anti-racist and anti-discriminatory practices.</p>
Gloucestershire Action for Refugees & Asylum Seekers	<p>GARAS has strong Inclusion and diversity policies and this sits at the heart of GARAS values. This is part of every induction and in the heart of the GARAS staff Handbook. WE regularly revisit the GARAS values and regularly look at our unconscious bias, using a tool provided by the University of Gloucestershire Social Work department. We used this again last May in a full team days training. As far as pay is concerned GARAS uses the NJC scales so all staff are on the same pay scales for their post - thus removing any potential for unfair balance.</p> <p>GARAS is committed to fair pay and are committed to the real living wage so no-one is paid below that.</p> <p>GARAS trustees review the policies on a rolling programme and so the diversity policies are reviewed regularly.</p> <p>GARAS sits on the Hate Crime group for the county.</p>
The Harbour Project	<p>Updated Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy to include commitments around anti-racism.</p> <p>We have strengthened our recruitment approach to create career development paths into and upwards within the organisation for people with Lived Experience. This includes mentorship.</p> <p>Staff have undertaken training on Unconscious Bias as well as Trauma Informed responses</p> <p>We have participated in a number of events that promote diversity and inclusion - such as international food fare in Swindon and a Health Awareness event for people for south Asian communities</p>

6. Do you have any suggestions for how the initiative could better support grant partners? (Optional)	
Bristol Law Centre	<p>JTI can maybe be more clearly a national voice for the sector and help grantees in reaching other funders. Moreover, offering a more proactive support in securing funding would be very useful. Although JTI’s support has been crucial, the money the grant offers to our partners are not sufficient to meet their ambitious goals. More JTI events can also be useful for networking and sharing practice.</p>
Refugee Support Devon	<p>No</p>

Devon & Cornwall Refugee Support	No
Plymouth Hope	I believe the initiative is great and has been very supportive of the work we do beyond this specific project. For Plymouth, there is still a lot of work to be done for few organisations to have a frank and non-bias collaboration with lived experience led organisations and Plymouth Hope being the only one currently (lived experience led in staff, volunteers, and management), we still face a lot of exclusion by other partners. A recent example is the refugee integration contract, 5 partners got together to submit a bid to the local council, and they excluded the only non-white led organisation. There is factual evidence for this, and a grievance and complaint were raised with the local council and commissioning managers.
Bristol Refugee Rights	Not at this time
Gloucestershire Action for Refugees & Asylum Seekers	No
The Harbour Project	No

7. Financial Reporting: Have you spent the money budgeted as intended? (yes/no) If no and the difference was greater than 10% then please describe the differences/changes.	
Bristol Law Centre	All grant payments due to this date have been processed by the BLC's finance manager to partners as intended by the project's budget. Invoices are accordingly available.
Refugee Support Devon	Yes
Devon & Cornwall Refugee Support	Yes - We have spent the finances on caseworker salaries
Plymouth Hope	We can confirm that we have spent the budgeted grant for this period with 80% of the funding spent on staffing salaries and staff support; 10% on development and 10% on advice volunteers travel
Bristol Refugee Rights	yes
Gloucestershire Action for Refugees & Asylum Seekers	yes we have used all the funding!
The Harbour Project	To date, all money has been spent. This has been allocated to cover 50% of the pay costs of our Junior Advisor (Micael) in the period

	September to March 2024. Any residual monies were used to meet the costs of one of our Advisors, Tom Bain. Tom Has taken the lead for much of our interface with SWIA, preparing cases, building team expertise, and exploring capacity issues with Legal Aid solicitors.
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The University of Plymouth Law Clinic's response to the template questions:

- **“The Law Clinic to provide capacity building and networking support to the three partner organisations based in Devon and Cornwall.**
- [Rosie] have allocated a proportion of her time to capacity building specifically – this relates a. to students who work in the immigration and refugee law clinic, and then go into the pathway model for those students who want to build expertise to stay in the sector (Katherine Murphy – who was supported to OISC 1 as a graduate intern but unfortunately had to stop working due to her daughter's illness, Henry Kong who is currently working towards OISC L1 as grad intern) – we are working closely with our partner organisations on this model (through partnership arrangements/funding bids etc).
- This coming year I hope to change our educational model so that law clinic students are placed in DCRS (as the previous successful model for Refugee Family Reunion with the British Red Cross – more like a placement). I will also discuss this with Plymouth Hope and include RSD (which is geographically more distant) in the model). Aim – to upskill those organisations while also providing students with opportunities B. providing my support and supervision to partners to upskill – this needs more work to free up sufficient of my time. There have been a lot of conversations – but I want to make sure this is fed back more effectively to you.
- Networking – all the leads of the partner organisations come into the clinic to speak to students and the law clinic co-ordinates the legal advice sub-committee of the refugee/asylum seeker/immigration network which includes all 3 organisations. We will continue to try to support networking and Baher you and I discussed a renewed initiative around this.

- **Support the exchange of information, referrals, supervision, and coordination of services between the key immigration advice organisations in the Southwest.** Law clinic produced a referral form and we are continuing to try to support this – we will continue the work given some of the challenges we discussed earlier
- **Support the partner organisations based in Devon with the development plans of their advice services.** Again some challenges with this – but will renew some work on this for the next partners meeting as we have not started work on this yet but would be good to work with you on it”.