

# Multicultural New Towns Heritage Project



Enriching lives through  
Arts and Culture



## Ikram Malik

Ikram was born in Afghanistan in 2000. He moved to the UK alone in 2014. He had to leave Afghanistan because it was unsafe for him to stay and was supported by his mother and maternal uncle to do so.

He decided to move to the UK because there is better support for young people compared to other countries in Europe. They had only heard of London in Afghanistan because it is the capital. It took Ikram three or four months to get to the UK. From Dunkirk he travelled in a lorry and when he was let out he found himself in Milton Keynes. He hopes that his friends can move to the UK and work so that they can also be safe. Ikram was not scared of arriving in the UK as an illegal immigrant. When he arrived in Milton Keynes the police arrested him and held him in prison for twenty-four hours. They decided to send him to a foster family and he lived with them in Hatfield, Hertfordshire for three years. He loved living with his foster family and considered them family because they looked after him. When he turned eighteen he was moved back to Milton Keynes because that's where he was arrested and so where he is considered to be from in this country. Ikram has made friends in Milton Keynes at college and they meet up in the City Centre. Ikram hopes to become a car mechanic and he wants to do a course in IT.

Ikram feels like he grew up here because he was only fourteen when he came to live here and considers the UK to be his home because he thinks everything he knows of home in Afghanistan has gone.

Ikram has been told that the Home Office will be deporting him back to Afghanistan. He was told he cannot work, but he needs to be able to do that to support himself. He used to have an advocated solicitor, but he has failed to help him. Ikram has no contact with his family in Afghanistan.

