

RSD'S staff team



Rupert Blomfield - Manager

Part time 4 days Mondays - Thursdays

Rupert took over managerial duties from Annette Hughes in October 2021. He has spent the last twenty five years working mostly in the charitable sector with rough sleepers, subsistence farmer blacksmiths, refugees, asylum seekers and victims of human trafficking and modern slavery. He has previously held managerial/directorial posts with organisations such as Amber Initiatives, Plymouth Hope and Devon Inclusive Housing Project.

Annette Hughes - Finance Manager

Part time 1 day flexible

Originally trained as a nurse, then qualifying as a social worker, Annette spent 3 years in Mozambique supporting rural community groups and volunteering projects through an international development agency. Following a short spell of working with the local government on return to the UK Annette became the first Project Coordinator for Refugee Support Devon in 2003. In September 2021 Annette stepped back from these duties and now focuses on supervising RSD's financial affairs and fundraising.

Amelia Jepson – Administrative Assistant

Part time 2.5 days Wednesday mornings, Thursdays and Fridays



Amelia is a recent graduate in International Development from the University of Sussex. In March 2024 she returned from volunteering and working in Colombia, near the border in Venezuela. This was with an organisation delivering essential aid to refugees on foot, or 'caminantes'. She has also volunteered in the past for organisations advocating on behalf of Gypsy Romani Traveller (GRT) communities. Interning in a charity in London, Amelia learnt a lot about charity communications, and has a passion for uplifting community members' voices online and elsewhere, to advocate and raise awareness.

Anne Conway – RAMP Coordinator

Part time 2 days Tuesdays and Thursdays

Anne joined RSD in October 2023 and coordinates hospital placements and internships on our RAMP project. She is a dual qualified RGN and RMN (rtd) also holding CELTA and has used these qualifications over the years to support her clinical international colleagues with safer, more effective integration into the NHS workplace by developing and delivering a rolling programme of workshops covering areas including pronunciation, handovers, legal aspects and workplace language. Since retiring Anne has worked alongside three other charities, advising refugee doctors and nurses on their pathways to NHS roles.



Denise Parker – Education Coordinator

Part time flexible



Denise has coordinated our education and employability projects since 2017. She has worked in the UK and abroad as a TEFL teacher and online teacher trainer, EAP specialist in Business and Medicine and assessor for IELTS and Trinity College London exams. She started with RSD as a volunteer tutor specialising in Medical English to work with refugee doctors and much of her time now is spent on coordinating the language elements of our new RAMP project.

Ella Marsh – IA hotel support worker

Part time 2 days Mondays and Tuesdays

Ella joined us in October 2023 to assist Souad with supporting the residents of IA hotels opened near Exeter. Before joining us Ella helped run a community art project in London. She has previously worked as a volunteer in a hotel set up and run by refugees in Athens as an alternative to camps for asylum seekers arriving in Europe, running activities for children and helping with art workshops. Away from RSD Ella is a yoga teacher and retreat co-ordinator, designing, curating and hosting restorative and safe spaces both in the UK and abroad.





Kiven Emmanuel - Senior Drop-in Coordinator.

Part time 2.5 days Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursday afternoons

Kiven oversees our Drop-in and Immigration Clinic Services. He joined RSD in May 2023, having previously worked in operation management and project support roles with Devon and Cornwall Refugee Support and Plymouth Hope. Before that he worked for many years in a range of international development roles in the UK and Cameroon. Kiven is experienced in drop-in environments and is accredited by OISC to provide Level 1 immigration advice.

Rebecca Michel – Education in Integration Coordinator

Part time 2.5 days Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Friday mornings

Rebecca has been involved in English Language Teaching since the 1980s. She has worked in the UK, France, Turkey and Egypt as a Teacher, a Manager, a Teacher Trainer and a volunteer. She taught and managed a programme of Academic English at the University of Exeter and taught ESOL at Exeter College. She has also been volunteering with RSD and other charities.



Souad Fadel - Resettlement Coordinator

Full Time

Formerly a lecturer at Benghazi University in Libya, Souad came to the UK in 2007 to complete her Ph.D in Politics at Exeter University, focusing on immigrants and refugees. Souad joined RSD in 2018 to provide support to families resettled in Devon as a result of the war in Syria. More recently she has taken on similar responsibilities for families evacuated from Afghanistan in August 2021. She has worked with various local groups, including being Vice Principal of Exeter Muslim Association.

Trupti Desai - Administrator

Part time 3 days Mondays - Wednesdays.

Trupti worked for the British Council in countries such as the Gaza Strip, India and Thailand for over 20 years, developing an acute awareness of the needs of people at grassroots level and engaging them in all aspects of the British Council's work. Trupti joined RSD as Administrator in 2013, her excellent managerial and administrative skills bringing in some order where there is often chaos!



Valentina Todino – Drop-in coordinator

Part Time 4 days Tuesdays to Fridays

Valentina is an Honorary Associate Research Fellow of the University of Exeter and has been working with the Department of Modern Languages as a community liaison officer. She is also involved also in community projects, including being an active member of the Italian Cultural Association Exeter. Her interest in refugee issues brought her to RSD, first as a volunteer and then, at the end of 2022, as our drop-in coordinator, assisting Kiven by triaging new drop-in clients and coordinating our team of drop-in volunteers.