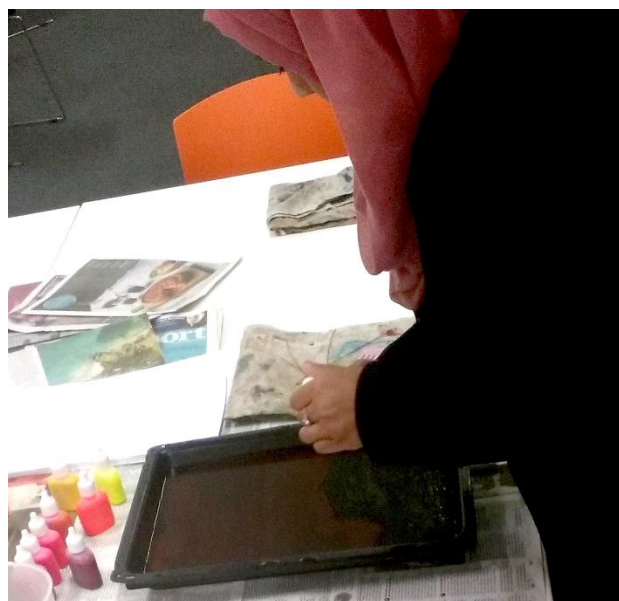**After 18 – Trails of Journeys**

The Trails of Journeys project is based in Leicester and is supported by Leicester Quaker Meeting.

The project provides support for young people aged 13-25 who are in the UK alone claiming asylum through weekly arts and crafts sessions with a specialist worker. Some of the young people are isolated because of disability, or because of being moved to a new city where they know no-one and do not speak the language. Many young people have experienced trauma and fear their own communities and so do not mix with them.

As well as creating a social group for the young people, the workshops provide a safe space for them to express themselves and be heard. The activities keep them busy and distract them from their worries and previous bad experiences.

The group quickly settled back into routine in the new academic year after last year's summer break, and now consists of a number of very committed long-established participants who warmly welcome newcomers. There have been 16 participants (from 10 different countries) this year. They have worked on a book project, learning to marble paper and make self-made and bound A6 size booklets with marble-paper covers. They have produced notebooks for sale and also worked on writing their own book for publication. They've also produced printed cotton bags and pencil cases, felted cushion covers, baby boots and baby blankets, and lampshades.

The group's friendship has grown strong, which has helped the members to feel less isolated, and four young people receive outreach support from the group, even though they can only attend intermittently due to their studies or childcare responsibilities.

The group has had a stall at several local events, at which they've sold their goods to raise further funds. This summer the group is focusing on producing their most popular items for the market stalls, which sell particularly well. Increasing income from sales will help replace the QPSW Relief grant funding when this comes to an end.