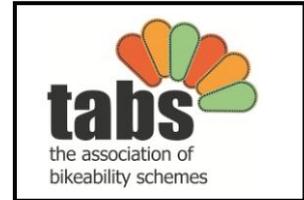


## Bikeability for unaccompanied asylum seeking children in Kent (page 2)

**Delivered by:** Kent County Council (KCC) Folkestone, Kent.

**Further info:** Peter Wedlake, Cycle Training Team Leader, KCC [Peter.wedlake@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Peter.wedlake@kent.gov.uk)



*“Peter and his team have been invaluable in enabling some of the most vulnerable young people in the county to learn about the importance of road safety when using their bikes.*

*A bicycle is the most easily obtainable form of transport for young people on an extremely low income but the experiences of traffic are very different in the countries of origin for these young people and they are not aware of the dangers they pose to themselves and others. Kent Refugee Action Network has been trying to establish regular cycle safety training for our students for many years and at last with the help of VSK and KCC Safer Mobility under the leadership of Peter Wedlake we have been able to run three day-long courses. The young people have had a fun day, have appreciated the way the team have communicated in a simple and effective way to get the message across and have been proud to receive their certificates. Thank you to all involved.”*

**Wendy Catterick, Lifeskills and Outreach Manager,  
Kent Refugee Action Network**



### Outcomes:

4 programmes have been delivered from KRAN premises in Folkestone. The majority of attendees were able to achieve Level 2 outcomes, and some even achieved Level 3. Whilst these were challenging sessions for the Instructors, there were few behavioural problems and considerable enjoyment for the vast majority. Regardless of age, there was evident delight at the award of certificates and badges (see photo) and many new friendships were developed whilst cultural barriers were further reduced. Subsequently, many now use bicycles to travel to/from their place of education or potential employment.

### Next steps:

More training is planned, as demand has increased from Foster carers across the county and further afield!

*“The help from yourself, Wendy at The Kent Refugee Action Network charity and the Bikeability scheme enabled young asylum seekers in Kent to learn basic road safety awareness skills that promoted their independence, confidence and helped their psychological adjustment to a environment, often thousands of miles from their homeland. Invaluable as many of the young people were already using bikes to either ride to school or for leisure purposes.*

*Many thanks once again. “*

**Steve Green**

**VSK educational support officer for UASC in school –  
East Kent**