



Around one in three refugees come into the UK via family reunion. Unlike those who arrive through the asylum process or resettlement programmes, people who come into the UK on a Family Reunion visa are not offered any formal support to access services and are left on their own to navigate our complex health, education, housing and welfare services.

The new Family Reunion Integration Service support families through core casework to ensure that they are able to access basic rights, including registering with a GP, gaining access to universal credits, having appropriate accommodation, and getting children into school. In addition, through the implementation of co-production, our aim is to create a space where people with similar experiences can form friendships and come to grips with their new situations to support each other. We will establish stronger bonds within communities by establishing a **peer buddy scheme** and a **peer education scheme**.

Peer buddy scheme

A peer buddy scheme will be established to provide befriending and orientation support, and to provide language and intercultural mediation.

These volunteer peer buddies will be paired up with a newly arrived service user and will meet them once a week for a period of 12 weeks in their new town. Typical activities may include: orientation of local area, helping with registration to GP services and schools, introduction to social events and activities, language sharing and learning, befriending and support.

Our goal is to see the peer buddy support implemented at the same time as, and linked with, the core casework ensuring the effectiveness of the support and a strong follow-up.

Peer education scheme

A life-skills education programme, coproduced and facilitated by peer educators, will be delivered to family members, taking the form of weekly group sessions over a period of ten weeks.

The sessions will cover cultural orientation, rights and responsibilities, English learning/sharing, various group activities and guest speakers.

Interested in finding out more?

For West Yorkshire enquires contact Fiona Garvey at
FionaGarvey@redcross.org.uk | 07885 897488

For South Yorkshire enquires contact Rozenn Penhoat at
RPenhoat@redcross.org.uk | 07778 935045



The Family Reunion Integration Service is part-funded by the European Union Asylum Migration Integration Fund. Making management of migration flows more efficient across the European Union.