



Health Access for Refugees Programme

The Health Access for Refugees Programme (HARP) is a project of Refugee Council funded by the Community Fund. The aim of HARP is to empower asylum seekers and refugees to access the UK health system in an appropriate way and at the appropriate time. Clients will be placed at the centre of their own health care and in the lead of their own support and advocacy. The HARP project enables clients to better understand, care for and communicate their own health needs. Asylum seekers and refugees will be supported to speak in public, to share their experiences and raise the understanding and awareness of health professionals of their health needs.

The project works closely with local groups and other voluntary and statutory sector agencies that support asylum seekers and refugees by adding value to their delivery and working in partnership. HARP is based in Leeds, Wakefield, Barnsley, Rotherham and Sheffield.

HOW TO CONTACT US

Barnsley & Wakefield

Claire Langley
Project Coordinator
Claire.Langley@refugee
council.org.uk
Tel:07342990029
c/o Refugee Council
The Core
County Way
Barnsley
S70 2JW

Sheffield & Rotherham

Amita Brown,
Project Coordinator
Amita.Brown@refugee
council.org.uk
Tel: 07876600642
c/o Refugee Council
The Exchange Brewery
2 Bridge Street,
Sheffield,
S3 8NS

Leeds

Rose McCarthy,
Project Manager
Rose.McCarthy@refugee
council.org.uk
Tel:07393011902
Refugee Council
4th Floor Oak House,
94 Park Lane,
Leeds,
LS3 1EL



UK Registered Charity no. 1014576



We support people and communities to thrive.

The National Lottery Community Fund

REFUGEE COUNCIL

We want the UK to be a welcoming place of safety for people who seek refuge here from persecution and human rights abuses abroad.



Health Access for Refugees Programme

Get help finding where to go if you or your family are unwell, find English classes, groups to meet new friends and have fun, confidential advice and to talk about things which may be worrying you.



Health Access for Refugees Programme

The aims of the HARP are:

- To enable refugees and asylum seekers (RAS) to understand their rights and entitlements to health services through advocacy and befriending
- To Invest in RAS clients themselves; empowering them to feel confident to communicate their needs to health providers. By tackling the root of the problem we aim to reduce the need for crisis interventions and enable clients to both support themselves and others in the future.
- Build strong community networks: using volunteer Health Advocates as the catalysts for inclusive and empowered networks of people, continuing the delivery of key health and wellbeing messages via local and regional platforms and networks
- Engagement with grass roots networks to enhance multi-agency working in each area
- Advocate for changes: Using insight, evidence, learning and partnership work to campaign for change to overcome the barriers to accessing health.
- To empower RAS to speak in public, share their experiences and raise the understanding and awareness of health professionals of their health needs.



We are looking for dedicated and inspiring people to get involved with our project as volunteer health advocates, interpreters, befrienders and public speakers



Support for our Volunteers

- An opportunity to enrich your life by getting to know people from other cultures and helping them to access health services, in a timely and appropriate manner
- A comprehensive training and development programme to enable you to develop your appropriate skills
- Regular peer support meeting and supervision
- To gain valuable work experience within Refugee Council and partnership agencies in providing support and advocacy to asylum seekers, refugees and vulnerable migrants
- Networking opportunities with professionals within the organisation and across the sector

Support for our Clients

- Weekly health access course to asylum seekers at Urban House Initial accommodation Centre in Wakefield.
- Health access workshops for asylum seekers and refugees
- Support and advocacy to access different health services, such as registering and liaising with GPs, midwives, hospitals, dentists and other health care providers;
- Support to access appropriate mental health, emotional support and social care services;
- Volunteer befrienders who accompany refugees and asylum seekers to medical appointments and advocate on their behalf where necessary;
- Facilitation of 'ESOL for Health', encouraging participants to learn the English words that can help them to communicate their health issues and needs to health professionals.
- Specialised health workshops and groups covering topics such as: Men's Health, Women's Health, Mental Health, and Maternal Health.
- Opportunities to become HARP volunteers to support their peers and share their stories as Experts by Experience with health professionals.