



Background: Many vulnerable migrants, asylum seekers and new refugees are facing very difficult situations when they arrive in the UK/Kirklees. Many will face difficult practical situations or face barriers in accessing and engaging with services. Coming to a new place can also be disorientating and confusing. One critical barrier to being able to settle and integrate is being able to communicate in English, speak to neighbours, make friends, and develop local networks outside of those that speak your own language.

The Project: Starting in August 2019, the project is a 12-month programme which aims to engage with refugees, asylum seekers and migrants, complete initial assessments which explore both their English language development needs and their holistic and personal needs. Following the assessments, we will look to then refer/signpost the participants to appropriate provision.

Where provision is not available locally to meet their needs, but the project can demonstrate a need to partners who are funded to deliver ESOL provision we will look to plan and arrange courses together.

We do believe that there will be some instances where we will be unable to source the correct funded courses for learners and in those instances may explore opportunities including volunteering or wider learning/engagement opportunities. However, as we identify these gaps in provision, we will feed this into our reporting to identify issues and explore potential funding opportunities which may address such problems.

Delivery: We have identified 4 #Kirkleeswelcomes Initial Assessment Hubs where we will complete assessment activities. The Hubs will also look to create a safe and welcoming interactive space where we will work with partners to deliver activities to engage and motivate individual's and ultimately for many offer a first step to positively engage in their local community.

The 4 hubs are Batley Library (Monday 10 – 12), Dewsbury Library (Tuesday 1 – 5pm), Huddersfield Library (Wednesday 9 – 1pm) and the Greenwood Centre (Thursday 1pm – 5pm). In addition to these operating times we will also complete monthly evening sessions 5 – 7pm at each location for people who may be in work with an ESOL need or are unable to attend the daytime sessions.

Often accessing a library may not be possible for people and to ensure the project has the greatest reach we will also be delivering Initial Assessment activity at a range of venues on agreed dates, following marketing and engagement campaigns. Examples of the venues would be schools, faith groups and health centres.

Working Together: We would greatly appreciate your help in referring people who present at your service with an ESOL need to our #Kirkleeswelcomes Initial Assessment Hubs. You do not need to book appointments or complete a formal booking process, however if you do contact one of the team or email ThisWay4English@tslkirklees.org.uk we will be able to provide progression information as we will seek to gain consent to share.

We would also be happy to complete joint work to assist us all in achieving shared outcomes for people. For example, you may be delivering an event/activity and would like a member of your team to complete the initial assessment, or you may know of people with unmet needs in your area and would like to do an initial assessment to help you understand exactly what those needs are, or you would like support to bring ESOL activity to the area.

For more information please do not hesitate to contact me on christina@tslkirklees.org.uk or call 07825547938.