

BRR's current eligibility criteria - 2021

BRR is in the process of undertaking a comprehensive review of our eligibility and membership systems. In the meantime, we have written this document to share our current approach. This might be different to your understanding of our eligibility and membership in the past, but because of Covid we have had to take decisions about who we prioritise right now.

All of our services are subject to the capacity of staff and the physical space we have available.

The following are eligible for our services until further notice:

Advice

We work with people seeking asylum; it doesn't matter if their claim has not yet been made, has been refused, or is being considered. If the person has status, we cannot give them any advice, and would suggest they contact the Red Cross in Bristol (if they are within a year of being granted status) or a local advice organisation as a first point of contact.

We do not provide ongoing 'support', but specialist advice and casework on issues relating to asylum claims, accommodation and income.

Young People's Project

We work primarily as a second-tier advice project, with professionals supporting 16-25 year olds who have insecure immigration status and who are in the care of Bristol City Council. If the person is under 16 we would usually refer them to the Refugee Council Children's Adviser.

Pride Without Borders

Is a peer support group for asylum seekers, refused asylum seekers or people who need to claim asylum, and who are LGBTQ+

Project CLEAR

We provide time-limited casework and support for people with complex needs, defined as having one or more of the factors below, in addition to their immigration problems:

homelessness or risk of destitution; mental health needs; physical health issues/care needs/ disabled person; drug or alcohol dependency; within criminal justice system. We also take into consideration other factors that increases risk e.g. being a survivor of domestic abuse/ trafficking, carer, illiteracy, care leaver.

Welcome Virtual Groups (including Education and Early Years) and Tech Poverty Project – these groups are open to any person seeking asylum / person with refugee status who has been through a BRR New Member Interview. If the person is unsure if they are eligible, they should call our helpline and someone will be able to check for them.

Welcome Face to Face (including Education and Early Years) – for now face to face by the Welcome Team will be invite only and we will be prioritising people seeking asylum. Just as with the advice team, it doesn't matter if their claim has been refused or is in the process of being considered.

Geographical remit:

In addition to the eligibility criteria above, we can only work with people who live in Bristol, South Gloucestershire and the immediate surrounding area.

This is because we are familiar with what other services are available to people meaning we are best places to support people who are local to us. We also need to be able to meet people face to face sometimes and that means people not being too far away. Some of our funding is focused on Bristol which means unfortunately we have to limit the support we can provide to those outside of the city.

We will want to know where people are living when they first come to us. If people live far from Bristol we will try to find a more local service for them to contact. If the person needs specialist advice and BRR is the nearest available service, we will try to assist.

If you are not sure if you/someone is eligible for our services, please call the helpline when it is open and we will be able to advise.