

Case Studies

Waqarun

Waqarun is 43 year Muslim woman who was born and brought up in Pakistan in Rawalpindi. She was one of 10 children, 5 boys and 5 girls – a middle child in the family. She describes a warm, close- knit family unit in a good community with many friends and clearly enjoyed a stable and secure childhood. She misses her Mum and Dad very much although has some siblings in the UK. Waqarun presents as a happy, contented person who smiles readily.

Waqarun entered into an arranged marriage 10 years ago when her husband returned to Pakistan from England to seek a new wife following his divorce from his first wife. Once in England, the couple had a civil wedding at the Register Office. They live in Ashton, with her husband working as a taxi driver to support his family – they have two sons aged 8 ½ and 7 years and a daughter aged 4 ½ years. Waqarun says she is very happy in her marriage.

Taking time to settle in England with children quickly following, Waqarun whose Mother tongue is Urdu had little free time to learn English. It was her eldest son who tried to help his mother learn English saying, “We are English now (!) - don't speak Urdu. “ This was the motivation Waqarun needed to learn the language and through a friend (Azima) she learnt about Holy Trinity Community Centre and started coming to the Centre when the project was first launched. She has been a regular attender of the ESOL class, the “Life in the UK” class, the Creative Writing class and the Health and Wellbeing class. She also comes to any other events eg the Cancer Awareness Day and International Women's Day which are put on in the Centre. Although living in the OL6 area, she has quite a walk to reach the Centre – such is her motivation now to learn – fitting the classes around her daughter's nursery attendance. She very much wants to improve not only her spoken English but also her reading and writing skills, eager to keep up with her sons and their school work.

Waqarun hopes to be able to pass on the skills she has learnt at the Centre to family and friends and she hopes to be a good citizen of the UK. In Pakistan, Waqarun learnt the art of massage and hopes one day to perhaps practise as a masseur in England or she would not mind a job cooking as she knows she is a very good cook. In the meantime, whilst her children are young, she would like to work as a midday assistant/supervisor at her children's school once her daughter progresses from Nursery to Reception. And with the English skills she is now acquiring this would seem a possibility for her.



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