

Together Now Strategic Plan 2020-2023

Our Vision: Refugees Families Reunited

Our Mission: Facilitating refugee family reunion

Our Core Principle: All families should be able to live together, if they choose.

Our Organisational Values:

We treat our clients as individuals

We recognise that every family is different, and every case is different. We recognise the unique situation of each client, treating them and their families as individuals at all times. We respect our clients as being independent, equal and empowered in their own decisions and lives.

We are collaborative

We work in partnership with our clients and partners at every stage throughout the family reunion process. We aim to fill the gaps left in the current system and, wherever possible, use partners' systems and paperwork to reduce the impact on our clients and speed up processing times. As a volunteer-run charity, we work together, relying on different skillsets and varied viewpoints to be a professional and effective charity.

We are needs-driven

We only cover what cannot be self-funded or funded by other organisations. We are the last resort for our clients, providing what they need to reunite with their families and only providing what is absolutely essential.

Our clients

We count the following as direct clients:

- The 'sponsor' the person with refugee status
- Any immediate family members living with the sponsor
- All immediate family members overseas who are benefiting, including:
- anyone travelling to reunite with the sponsor
- anyone receiving DNA or TB testing
- anyone directly benefiting from the support, eg receiving an arrival grant.

We also acknowledge that in some cases there are indirect clients, although we do not record these. These in the majority fall into these two groups:

- Friends or family members no longer needing to support the sponsor's family overseas, and
- Other dependent relatives benefiting from the sponsor getting into work and sending money back home.

Looking back

Together Now was established as the Refugee Welcome Trust in 2010, and has always focussed on supporting the reunion of families where a parent has refugee status in the UK.

At our inception, Together Now only offered travel arrangements, but we have since developed symbiotic partnerships with charities and are able to offer support to around 55 families per year.

In 2014, we changed our name to Together Now, reflecting the positive outcome of our work. Our current offer includes:

- Costs of maintaining relationships prior to the family reunion process being initiated
- Travel to a visa appointment in extraordinary circumstances

- DNA and TB testing to support applications or appeals
- Cost of travel to a departure airport
- Exit costs including visas or vaccination certificates
- Flight costs, or access to free flights, and
- Arrival grants.

In 2016, Together Now joined forces with Miles4Migrants, which is a US-based charity that provides donated frequent flyer miles for the relocation of those displaced by war, persecution and politics. This partnership has exponentially increased both the number of clients and the range of support that we are able to offer.

Looking ahead

Looking ahead, we expect that demand for our services at all stages will increase, particularly with increasing major climate events, restrictions from other funders and continued austerity. Across the next three years, we will strive to remain focussed on covering only those costs that cannot be funded elsewhere, and ensuring we only cover what is necessary, so that we can support as many families to reunite as possible.

In time, we hope to see opinions towards refugees change as information becomes more free-flowing outside of traditional news networks and the positive impact of migration is better recognised. We recognise our own role as part of a community of refugee charities in addressing and challenging misconceptions and promoting understanding of the realities of being a refugee going through the family reunion process.

Our Programmes

Together Now delivers a range of programmes all aimed at supporting refugees to be reunited with their families.

Pre-Refugee Status Programme (PRESFS)

This programme supports families who are yet to be defined as refugees. Support under this programme is limited to necessary costs, such as the costs of phone calls, to maintain relationships with families prior to being able to initiate the family reunion process.

Pre Visa Programme (PREVIC)

This programme provides support for costs incurred prior to securing a visa, including:

- DNA testing
- TB or other medical testing
- Travel and subsistence for visa appointments
- Translations and other miscellaneous costs.

Post Visa (POVTC)

This programme provides support for costs incurred after securing a visa, including:

- Travel to departure airport
- Flights to the UK through Miles4Migrants
- Flights to the UK through Diversity and funded by Together Now
- Grants for flights or to support self-funded flights
- Travel from arrival airport
- Arrival grants

Volunteer-run

Together Now is an entirely volunteer-led and -run organisation.

Strategic Priorities

Organisational Priority Outcomes

Together Now is committed to meeting the highest standards of professionalism and charity best practice. It undertakes ongoing self-reflection and will focus on the following four priority outcomes over the coming three year period at an organisational level.

Outcome one: We effectively monitor and evaluate the work we do, and learn and develop from our findings.

Outcome two: We have a diverse and effective fundraising base in place that enables us to sustainably and effectively provide the necessary support to our clients.

Outcome three: We have effective and professional partnerships in place with appropriate organisations for both operations and fundraising, which operate in accordance with clear processes and mutual respect and collaboration.

Outcome four: We have adequate Trustee and volunteer capacity – both in terms of skills and resources – to support our clients.

Operational Priority Outcomes

Together Now's work is focused on supporting refugee families to reunite, and its activities are divided into the three stage programmes. In order to ensure that we continue to meet the needs of our clients to the highest possible standard, we will focus on the following five outcomes as priorities over the coming three years.

Outcome one: Separated refugee families are reunited

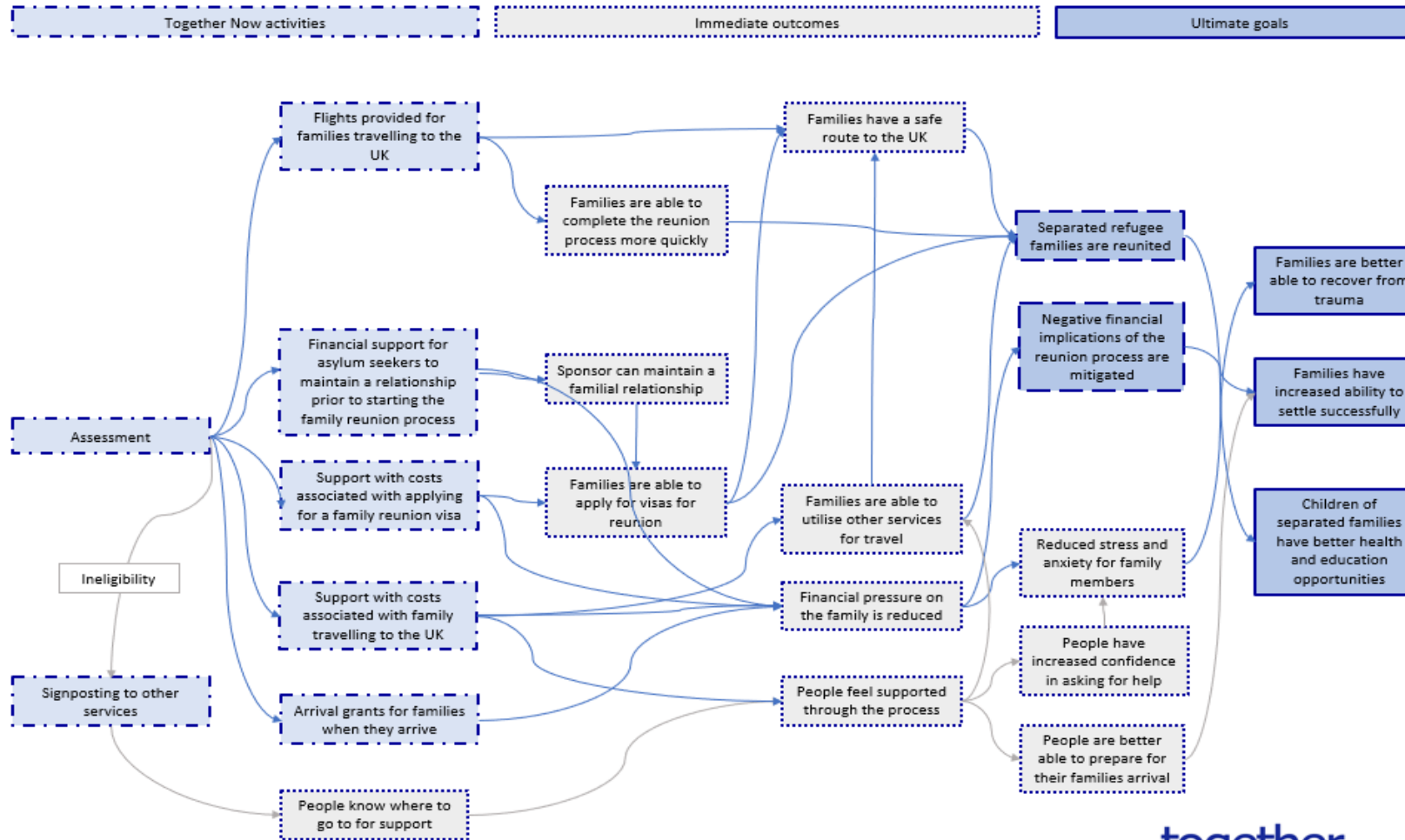
Outcome two: The negative financial implications of the reunion process are mitigated

Outcome three: People feel supported through the process, which reduces stress and anxiety

Outcome four: Families have the knowledge and information they need to access other services

Outcome five: Children of separated families have better health and education opportunities

Appendix 1: Theory of Change



Assumptions to support Theory of Change

- Together Now being involved in a family's reunion process will have a positive effect
- Together Now have the skills and experience to provide appropriate support to families
- There are necessary costs to going through the family reunion process
- Refugees in the UK struggle to meet the costs of family reunion
- The financial pressures of the family reunion process cause stress and anxiety for families
- Being able to fund the costs of reunion when needed reduces undue delay for families
- Positive interactions with one organisation encourage families to seek support in the future