

Daniel's story

Daniel is 15 years old. He came to England with his sister from Eritrea when he was 14. Daniel doesn't know where his parents are and was accidentally separated from his sister when travelling through Germany.

Daniel feels very lonely and doesn't want to talk about sad experiences with anyone. Although Amanda and Barry are kind to Daniel he deeply misses his own family and friends. Daniel finds his school is cliquy and hasn't made any friends, but he wants to do well and works hard. Daniel likes football but was bullied at the local football club and stopped attending. Daniel had a big group of Eritrean friends in London who now live in private shared housing.

Amanda and Barry have told Daniel about a weekly drop in for asylum-seeking and refugee children in Oxford, but Daniel feels nervous about going to a new place by himself and does not feel confident speaking English in front of strangers.



- What are the important issues for Daniel?
- How could Amanda and Barry manage these challenges around loneliness? What resources will they need?
- Can you think of any other challenges Amanda and Barry might expect to face?



Facilitator's notes/points to cover

Ethnic, linguistic, religious and cultural links with members of the young people's own countries of origin can help to create initial feelings of comfort, security and companionship, reducing the isolation associated with migration. However, not all young people want or need those links to the same degree.

Young people's concepts of religion, culture and identity are fluid and may change over time, and overgeneralising assumptions are not helpful.

- Amanda and Barry might support Daniel to visit his friends in London.
- Build Daniel's confidence – for example there might be a local mentoring scheme which offers Daniel some additional support to get involved in activities that interest him, eg football or participate in the drop-in.
- Daniel might be supported to use social media. His confidence might grow if he's offered the chance to also contact other young people who speak his language.