



CONNECTING ROMA  
—• C.I.C •—

162 Lumb Lane Bradford West  
Yorkshire BD8 7RZ

[www.connectingroma.org.uk](http://www.connectingroma.org.uk)

[info@connectingroma.org.uk](mailto:info@connectingroma.org.uk)

01274 495454

## HAF CASE STUDY

We are a Community Interest Company representing the EU Roma Community living in Bradford and surrounding areas and support professionals working with Roma people.

We work with the Bradford Children and Families Trust/Children's Social Care as many of the Roma families are experiencing hardship, poverty, destitution, isolation and other issues, barriers and challenges.

Most of our children who register with our HAF programme have social care involvement and experience hardship therefore most of the children would not have /haven't experienced such enriching activities/trips/site seeing etc.

This summer we registered a family made out of mum, dad and six children who are living in emergency temporary accommodation with no recourse to public funds and being supported by Children's Social Care. This family is totally isolated as they can not afford to take the children anywhere. They can not afford to buy toys, books or any items to stimulate their six children. Two of the children are SEND children and struggle in school. One of the SEND children is afraid of school and therefore struggles to attend, get involved in activities and learn as he has anxiety and other mental health related issues. The parents have been affected by their hardship circumstances and have low mood, depression, anxiety and are finding it difficult to socialise, relax, etc as they constantly are on the go to deal with their many issues.

The family was extremely happy this summer visiting our HAF holiday club. Parents really enjoyed the parent sessions every week whilst their children were in the holiday club playing, making new friends, experiencing new things, learning new skills etc.

We took the family on a residential trip in the Yorkshire Dale's, staying in a bunk house in the middle of the Dale's. The family had the time of their life. The father, who is usually quiet, had a great time getting involved in many activities so he can support his children doing the activities and was having fun with his family, flying kites, making fire, playing competition games and much more. We took the family out for a hike in the Dale's visiting a **Kilm** and other landmarks,

climbing huge hills and squeezing through caves. The family had an amazing time making amazing memories. Their two children with SEND managed to build their confidence in a couple of hours of arriving at the accommodation with the support from the parents and our staff the two boys had a blast and were amazing team mates. One of their daughters found it difficult on the hike getting through some of the obstacles and the parents did panic but with the help of our staff and encouragement from the whole team and other kids all the children from this family managed get through all obstacles, games, activities, hikes etc.

Since the holiday club finish the children have been attending school, behaving at home and talking about the time at the holiday club every time I see them.

The parents both had a good time and managed to relax which they haven't done in a long time. They appreciated the fact they were able to speak to other Roma parents who are experiencing similar circumstances and were very grateful for the whole experience.

Yours faithfully

Daniel Balaz

Company Director/Head of Services

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