

East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership Briefing

August 2017

The East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership Briefing brings together different sources of information relating to Asylum Seekers, Refugees, and Migration.

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Asylum Seekers and Refugees

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)

The UASC National Transfer Scheme (NTS)

The interim [National Transfer Scheme](#) was introduced in July 2016 to enable an equitable distribution of unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) across the country and to ensure that no local authority faces an unmanageable responsibility in accommodating and looking after unaccompanied children. The expectation for each region under the transfer scheme is for the number of UASC to be no higher than 0.07% of their overall child population, which for the East Midlands as a whole equates to a total of 676 unaccompanied children. Within the East Midlands, five of the nine upper tier authorities are currently accepting transfers. Nottinghamshire County Council has recently suspended its participation in the NTS and the Dubs Scheme. The numbers of unaccompanied children transferred into the region under the Scheme has increased over recent months. Participation in the scheme remains voluntary.

The Dubs Amendment (S.67 of the Immigration Act 2016)

Further to the [written statement \(HCWS467\)](#) to Parliament in February and a subsequent [written statement \(HCWS619\)](#) in April regarding the future of Section 67 of the Immigration Act (the “Dubs Amendment”) (see EMSMP Briefings Feb and Apr 2017), the Government has specified the number of places as 480. This figure includes over 200 children already transferred under s.67 from France as part of the Calais camp clearance. It does not include children transferred to the UK pursuant to the family reunion criteria of the Dublin III Regulation. In total, over 900 unaccompanied asylum seeking children were transferred from Europe to the UK in 2016.

Following the increase in the “specified number of children” to 480, the Home Office published in July an updated [policy statement](#) on the basis for further “Dubs” transfers to the UK. Those eligible for transfer to the UK are to be the most vulnerable, and likely to include victims of trafficking and sexual abuse; survivors of torture; survivors of violence; and children with mental or physical disabilities. In the East Midlands, the Strategic Migration Partnership and participating local authorities are working with the Home Office and other regions in the UK to identify appropriate placements and prepare for these arrivals from France, Greece and Italy in the coming months.

High Court hears challenge to UK Government's closure of the Dubs Scheme

A [legal challenge](#) by the Help Refugees charity to the Government’s implementation of the Dubs Amendment to the Immigration Act 2016 began on 20 June at the High Court. Help Refugees,

represented by Leigh Day Solicitors, argues that the Government's consultation with local authorities by which it reached the number of children to be relocated was 'seriously defective'.

Updated guidance on assisting children who come to the UK under Dublin III

Coram's Migrant Children's Project has produced [updated guidance](#) on assisting children who come to the UK under the Dublin regulation to join family members already here. The factsheet contains information on Dublin III children's legal needs and what duties local authorities have towards them, both while they are with their families and in case of family breakdown.

UASC Frequently Asked Questions

The Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) has produced a [UASC FAQ sheet](#) covering a range of issues relating to unaccompanied migrant children, including **Dublin III reunifications**.

A new Guide to the Rights and Entitlements of Unaccompanied Migrant Children

Coram Children's Legal Centre has published an updated guide, "[Seeking Support: a guide to the rights and entitlements of separated children](#)" providing comprehensive, practical advice to professionals on how to work with unaccompanied or separated children and young people and ensure they access the support and protection they need. The guide is free and available to download or via mail order (postage and packaging cost applies).

The Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS)

Refugees of all nationalities fleeing Syria are now eligible for resettlement in the UK

The Vulnerable Person Resettlement Scheme will be [expanded](#) to include refugees of all nationalities who have fled the conflict in Syria to neighbouring countries. The Home Secretary Amber Rudd [announced](#) on the 3rd July that vulnerable refugees of any nationality, not just Syrian, who fled the conflict to neighbouring countries and are unable to safely return to their home country could now be resettled in the UK with immediate effect. There has been no change to the 20,000 commitment.

In 2015 the government committed to resettle 20,000 Syrian refugees from the Middle East and North Africa Region (MENA) by 2020 and more than 7,000 Syrians have already arrived in the UK through the scheme.

The policy change follows advice from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) who identified that a diversified resettlement scheme was required to address the needs of the refugee population in the region.

In summary, this means that any family who had made Syria their home and had to flee as a result of the conflict will now qualify for resettlement. This could be families where only one of the adults is a Syrian national and the spouse holds another passport – or whole families who had made their lives in Syria and have fled in the same way that their Syrian neighbours had to – but until now, only Syrian nationals qualified for resettlement in the UK.

Implementation of status change from Humanitarian Protection to Refugee Status

The Home Office announced in March 2017 that from 3rd July 2017 anyone resettled under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) and Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme (VCRS) will be granted refugee status instead of Humanitarian Protection.

Those who have already been resettled in the UK before 3rd July 2017 will need to request to change their status. Individuals will be able to submit a request to change their status from 31st July 2017 by completing the following request form <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/request-to-change-humanitarian-protection-status-to-refugee-status> . Please note that completion of the request form does not require support from a qualified Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC) representative.

Further Details of UASC and VPRS Programmes

The Local Government Association maintains a [one-stop resource](#) aimed at councillors and council officers to answer questions relating to taking in refugees and unaccompanied children.

Information on the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme can be found on the [Refugee Resettlement page](#) of the East Midlands Councils website. If your council would be interested in finding out more about the Scheme, please contact Brein.Fisher@emcouncils.gov.uk

Click [here](#) for the latest news from the East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership.

Operation Sophia saves lives but has not stopped people smuggling

The House of Lords EU External Affairs Sub-Committee published a [report](#) on the EU's naval mission in the Mediterranean, Operation Sophia. This report concludes that it has failed in its mission to disrupt the business of people smuggling in the central Mediterranean.

On 22 June 2015, the European Union launched a Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) operation to disrupt the business model of people smuggling in the Southern Central Mediterranean. It

patrols the high seas off the coast of Libya to Italy, gathering information, rescuing migrants, and destroying boats used by smugglers.

The Sub-Committee report's key findings were:

- Operation Sophia has failed to achieve its objective of "contributing to the disruption of the business model of human smuggling and trafficking networks in the Southern Central Mediterranean".
- An unintended consequence of Operation Sophia's destruction of smugglers' boats has been that they have adapted, sending migrants to sea in unseaworthy vessels, resulting in more deaths at sea.
- A unified government in Libya, able to provide security across the country, is a precondition for meaningful EU action against people smuggling networks onshore. Political and security conditions in Libya are unlikely to improve sufficiently to allow onshore operations by the EU any time soon. There is therefore little reason to renew the mandate of Operation Sophia, but the search and rescue work, which has saved the lives of many people, should continue, using more suitable vessels.
- Operation Sophia vessels have rescued over 33,000 people since the inception of the mission.
- The number of recorded casualties on the central Mediterranean route increased by around 42% in 2016. There have been 2,150 recorded deaths to July in 2017.

Report into the current living conditions faced by refugees in and around Calais

Help Refugees have released a new [report](#) detailing the precarious living conditions faced by refugees living in and around Calais. The survey, undertaken alongside the French charity L'Auberge des Migrants, interviewed 126 people this month (August) about the living conditions in Calais.

The Help Refugees' team on the ground estimates that there are now around 750 refugees in Calais. 39% have been there for a month or more. More than three-quarters of respondents said that they had had their blankets taken from them – and that on average, it happened three times a week.

Most (97%) of those interviewed were male, with an average age of 21 years. The youngest was 10 years old. Afghanistan (35%), Eritrea (33%) and Ethiopia (26%) were the nationalities most frequently encountered.

Independent inquiry into the situation of separated and unaccompanied minors in Europe

An independent inquiry, [Nobody Deserves to Live this Way](#), sponsored by the Human Trafficking Foundation reports that instead of protecting children who have fled to Europe for safety, Government is failing them. Police violence has taught these children to fear the authorities who should be

protecting them, leaving the way open for smugglers and those who want to exploit them, including traffickers.

Rt Hon Fiona Mactaggart and Baroness Butler-Sloss GBE were alerted to the serious risks of trafficking and exploitation facing children in parts of Europe who are feeling countries where they feel unsafe, when they were Co- Chairs of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Trafficking and Modern Slavery (APPG). When the General Election was called, dissolving the APPG they agreed that the dangers facing these children were too great to expect them to wait. Instead they agreed that the Human Trafficking Foundation would sponsor the inquiry, allowing it to continue.

The inquiry found no evidence that providing a safe route for children to travel to the UK acted as a 'pull factor' or encouraged traffickers. Instead the evidence showed that leaving children without safe and legal options left them in limbo, stranded in dangerous and often violent situations. In many instances this resulted in children turning to smugglers, putting themselves at risk of dangerous journeys and of exploitation to pay the smugglers.

The inquiry's recommendations include:

- The UK works with European counterparts to ensure that in all cases safeguarding is prioritised and the rights of the child and the child's best interest are upheld.
- The British Government must ensure that any so called 'security measures', funded by the British Taxpayer, including outside of its own borders, operate in conformity with child protection and human rights principles and that in no cases are we contributing financially or otherwise toward physical or mental violence towards children.
- The 'Dubs scheme', or Section 67 of the Immigration Act, needs to be open to children in practice and more children need to be included. This will require expanding the criteria so that it doesn't exclude vulnerable children due to their age or nationality and a revised cut-off date. Most urgent is quick and transparent processing of these applications. The administration of the Dubs scheme requires multi-agency teams of specialists on the ground where most children are located, including Calais and Dunkirk to build confidence in safe routes and resistance to traffickers.

Report highlights delays people face in the asylum support system while claiming asylum

A new report has been published by Refugee Action, [Slipping Through the Cracks: how Britain's asylum system fails the most vulnerable](#). The report – based on analysis of more than 300 cases – shows some of the most vulnerable people seeking protection are being wrongly denied assistance or are experiencing long delays to get the support they are entitled to.

Of the 315 cases supported by Refugee Action or Asylum Support Housing Advice (ASHA) reviewed:

- 50% of applications for emergency support (section 98) were wrongly refused, with 92% of these decisions overturned when challenged;

- People waited an average of 2 months to receive long term financial and accommodation support and 3 months to receive just financial support;
- People were left in initial accommodation for an average of 37 days, almost double the Home Office's maximum target of 19 days. This left many in squalid, unsuitable conditions.

In light of these findings, Refugee Action is calling on the Government to:

- Urgently recommit to applying their existing policy and guidance consistently in all cases, including making decisions on support as quickly as possible.
- Put into practice a transparent approach to decision-making on asylum support, within three months. This should include releasing detailed statistics on support decisions and ensuring it is publicly monitoring meaningful indicators of success.
- Give those seeking sanctuary the right to work, bringing the UK into line with most European countries. This would mean people seeking asylum would no longer be forced to rely solely on state support to survive.

Coram Children's Legal Centre – Access free legal information on topics relating to migrant and refugee children

Coram Children's Legal Centre's new website features [a whole selection of new fact sheets and resources](#) on subjects that relate to migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking children and young people. The fact sheets cover such topics as [asylum](#), [immigration](#), [EU law](#), [nationality](#), [access to local authority support](#), [education](#) and [healthcare](#), and more. Each legal fact sheet also comes with an introduction to the topic for non-legal professionals.

Online tool to help advise destitute families

An online tool to help local authority practitioners and voluntary sector advisers work out support options for destitute families with no recourse to public funds has been launched by the NRPF Network and COMPAS. The web tool – <http://migrantfamilies.nrpfnetwork.org.uk/> - aims to help local authorities to make best use of reduced and scarce resources in order to adhere to statutory child safeguarding duties, by: acting as an aid to enable local authority staff to conduct assessments more efficiently by explaining key elements of the complex law that governs eligibility for social services support; and providing information to help plan how a case might be resolved.

The latest news from the NRPF Network is available [here](#).

Look out for the new Application Registration Card (ARC)

The Home Office is launching an upgraded Application Registration Card (ARC), which will be rolled out to new asylum applicants from late June 2017.

The ARC is the identification card used by asylum applicants to prove they have an asylum claim in progress. This gives them the right to certain entitlements and benefits. Staff in the NHS and the Police, as well as employers and financial institutions should be aware of the new ARC, as it may be presented as a new form of identification.

The roll out of the new ARC is due to complete by July 2017, meaning that all asylum applicants who have submitted a claim from this time will receive the new ARC.

The new ARC closely resembles the Biometric Residence Permit that is currently issued to non-EU citizens in the UK. It includes 47 new security features, an International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) compliant biometric image and a validity period. Please note that the new ARC is not a travel document.

The current version of the ARC will stop being issued from July 2017, but cards will continue to be valid until 2019.

If you have any questions about the ARC, please contact:

ImmigrationITPortfolioBusinessChange@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

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Migration

UK Government publishes proposals on rights of EU citizens post-Brexit

Since the result of the referendum last summer, the UK government has stated that it has been clear on how important it is that they secure, as early as possible, both the rights of EU citizens in the UK and UK nationals in EU Member States. The Government recently announced that it is now seeking to provide EU citizens with certainty about their future by publishing a [white paper](#) which sets out Government's offer to them.

In response, the EU's Brexit negotiator [Michel Barnier](#) tweeted a sceptical response, saying: "More ambition, clarity and guarantees needed than in today's UK position."

A [detailed analysis](#) of the Government's 'offer' is presented on the Free Movement website.

Coram Children's Legal Centre has published a [briefing](#) which draws attention to the issues the Government's proposals raise for children, including children in care. And in a fuller report, [This is My Home](#), they highlight the fate of hundreds of thousands of children and young people who, despite having been brought up in the UK, are trapped in precarious situations because they are unable to secure permanent status in the UK. The report recommends a shorter route to permanent status; better Home Office decision making; an urgent review of children and young people's needs for legal services; and information for social workers and improved local authority practice.

New family migration Home Office guidance published

The Home Office has published new [guidance](#) on family migration to the UK.

For family life as a partner and family life as a parent of a child in the UK, the guidelines include: entry clearance requirements; leave to remain requirements; and indefinite leave to remain requirements.

Report finds link between concerns over immigration levels and decision to vote Leave

Britain's vote to leave the EU was the result of widespread anti-immigration sentiment, according to the [latest British Social Attitudes survey](#).

Nearly three-quarters (73 per cent) of those who are worried about immigration voted Leave, compared with 36 per cent of those who did not identify this as a concern.

The research, collated by the National Centre for Social Research, found that suggestions by politicians and others that the Brexit vote represented a lightning rod for a general disenchantment with politics were "widely off the mark".

'Brexodus' of EU workers hitting employers

A shortage of staff for British employers worsened in July, hurt by the departure of European Union workers after last year's Brexit vote, reports the Recruitment and Employment Confederation (REC) in its latest [analysis](#).

Migration Advisory Committee to analyse EU nationals' role in the UK

The Home Secretary Amber Rudd has [commissioned](#) the Migration Advisory Committee to carry out a detailed analysis of the role of EU nationals in the UK economy and society. The Committee is tasked with examining the evolution of EU and EEA migration since 2000 and possible future trends.

Migrants' impact on D2N2 area economy revealed by new research

People from the emerging migrant communities in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire are more likely to start their own business, and more than half are educated to at least GCSE level, says new [research](#) commissioned by the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership.

Key findings include:

- The D2N2 area – which covers Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire – has proportionally seen far less migration than the UK as a whole. Around 162,000 of the 2.1 million people living in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire were born outside the UK.

- Migrants from more than 100 countries have moved to the D2N2 area; most migrants are of working age; with almost 70% aged from 16 to 64, and almost a third of the total aged 16 to 24.
- Over a third of migrants had Level 4 qualifications or above (Higher Apprenticeship or BTEC equivalent), a further quarter had Level 1 to 3 qualifications (lower GCSE to A-level equivalent), and a quarter some other qualification.
- Business organisations expressed concerns that any tighter future migration policy may affect the recruitment of skilled and unskilled workers; particularly affecting the agriculture and food manufacturing, health and social care, and manufacturing and construction sectors.

Latest immigration statistics released

The Government's latest quarterly [immigration statistics \(April – June 2017\)](#) have been released by the Home Office. The data relates to those coming to the UK for work, study and family reasons; grants of asylum and protection; those gaining citizenship; and those being detained or returned.

There were 2,944 asylum applications from UASC in the year ending June 2017, a 17% decrease compared to the previous year (3,545). Overall, UASC applications represented 11% of all main applications for asylum.

In addition, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has published its latest [Migration Statistics Quarterly Report \(MSQR\)](#). The MSQR is a summary of the latest official long-term international migration statistics for the UK for the year ending March 2017 published by Office for National Statistics (ONS). The report also includes data from the Home Office and the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) for the year ending June 2017.

The data shows that the level of net migration to the UK has fallen to its lowest level in three years as significantly more EU citizens left the country. Net long-term international migration to the UK – the difference between immigration and emigration – was 246,000 in the year ending March 2017, statistics from the ONS show. This compares with 327,000 in the year to March 2016. Emigration of EU citizens increased by 33,000 year-on-year to 122,000 - the highest outflow for nearly a decade. At the same time there was a 19,000 decrease in immigration from the EU, although this was not "statistically significant".

These immigration statistics demonstrate that in the East Midlands a total of 378 refugees have been resettled under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme up until 30th June 2017. Forty-one refugees were resettled in the quarter ending 30th June 2017 and resettled in High Peak, Leicester, Mansfield and Newark and Sherwood local authority areas.

In terms of asylum seekers at 30th June a total of 2609 asylum seekers supported with accommodation and subsistence under Section 95* were accommodated in the region which shows little change from the end of March figure of 2604. The breakdown is as follows:

- Derby City: 738
- Leicester City: 867
- Nottingham City: 937
- Oadby and Wigston: 52

Across the region a further 142 asylum seekers receive subsistence only support (living with friends and family and distributed beyond the established dispersal areas)

*Section 95 of the Immigration and Nationality Act 1999. These figures also exclude asylum seekers supported under Section 4 of the same Act. This support is for asylum seekers who have been unsuccessful in their application but still meet the criteria for accommodation and subsistence support. These figures are not published by the Home Office by local authority area.

Migration statistics ‘inadequate’, says House of Lords report

A new report, [Brexitee and the Labour Market](#), by the House of Lords Economic Affairs Committee has concluded that the International Passenger Survey (IPS) and other measures for tracking UK migration figures are not up to the job.

Instead of depending on these outmoded and unreliable methods, the committee says the government should:

- Use information relating to the economic activity of immigrants – such as paying tax or receiving benefits – to gain a clearer understanding of how long migrants stay in the UK.
- Explore how information from exit checks, which have been reintroduced, can be combined with other information. This should help to address the unreliability of the IPS.
- Devise a better way of accounting for the departure of international students. The current approach cannot calculate, with any precision, how many students stay at the end of their degree.

Report suggests that evidence ‘not enough to convince’ on migrants and refugees

Emotive and value-driven arguments may have more effect than facts and evidence in influencing attitudes to migrants and refugees, says a new Overseas Development Institute [working paper](#).

The report argues that traditional approaches to public engagement, such as ‘myth-busting’, may have exacerbated negativity and are unlikely to resonate beyond those who are already supportive. Although important in influencing policy debates, evidence has its limitations as a persuasive tool. Engaging effectively with public attitudes towards refugees and migrants requires understanding the real world concerns, emotions and values around which attitudes are formed. These efforts work best, it says, when clearly rooted in national and local contexts, and the nuances of public attitudes within them.

Modern slavery national awareness raising campaign

The Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA) has joined forces with the national charity Crimestoppers for an awareness raising campaign about Modern Slavery, how to spot it and what to do if you suspect you may have encountered it – [Spot the Signs: Modern Slavery is on your Doorstep](#).

Modern slavery short film competition

Unchosen use short films to tell people about modern slavery in the UK and their new Modern Slavery Short Film Competition is open now.

This year's competition is broader and more inclusive than previous competitions. Unchosen are still looking for great films about modern slavery, but this year they are asking anyone who has made a film about modern slavery completed since August 2014 and which is less than 20 minutes long to enter their competition.

Closing date for nominations is 15th December 2017. Click [here](#) for more information and to enter.

Roma Support Group

The Roma Support Group is a Roma-led registered charity working with East European Roma refugees and migrants. Its mission is to improve the quality of life for Roma refugees and migrants by helping them to overcome prejudice, isolation and vulnerability. It is also the Group's objective to make the public aware of Roma culture, heritage and the current situation of Roma refugees and migrants in the UK through cultural and informative events and publications.

Further details of the work of the Roma Support Group is available via their [website](#).

Service aims to improve Anti-Sikh hate crime reporting

[Sikh Aware UK](#) is a secure service that allows people to report any form of Anti-Sikh abuse. A portal enables victims of anti-Sikh abuse to address concerns and record any incident experienced as a result their Sikh faith or being perceiving to be Sikh. By using the '[Submit a Report](#)' section, victims can describe the details of the abuse suffered, whether verbal or physical, and the location of the attack so that incidents can be mapped across the UK.

Permission granted for Judicial Review of Government's policy on EEA rough sleepers

The Migrants' Rights Network [reports](#) that [The Public Interest Law Unit](#) at Lambeth Law Centre have won the chance to judicially review the lawfulness of the Home Office policy which construes rough sleeping by EEA nationals as an 'abuse' or 'misuse' of the right to freedom of movement.

Mr Justice Ouseley granted permission to judicially review the Home Office's policy and its implementation on the following grounds:

- Rough sleeping cannot be equated with 'abuse' or 'misuse' of the right to freedom of movement.
- The systematic verification of EEA nationals' right to reside may be unlawful and so the Home Office Immigration Enforcement teams should not be conducting those operations.
- The policy is discriminatory on the grounds of property.

The full hearing is due to take place in October 2017.

Hosting Toolkit launched

In response to rising levels of migrant destitution and increasing support for refugees facing homelessness, NACCOM and Homeless Link have launched the first [Hosting Toolkit](#), a how-to guide helping members of the public provide spare rooms to migrants experiencing destitution.

The toolkit contains practical advice on:

- setting up a hosting scheme
- recruiting, training and supporting volunteers

It also has case studies of schemes in operation, showing the impact hosting has made, both to their guests and the wider community.

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Funding

The Controlling Migration Fund

The purpose of the Government's Controlling Migration Fund (CMF) is to provide additional support for local authorities in areas experiencing pressures linked to recent immigration.

The Fund will be available over the four years from 2016-17 to 2019-20. Unlike previous similar funds the Controlling Migration Fund focuses on responding to the problems caused by high migration into localities as identified by local authorities and will deliver benefits to the established resident population. The Fund has two parts:

- A local service impacts part of £100m, to help English local authorities and their communities experiencing high and unexpected volumes of immigration to ease pressures on local services.
- An enforcement part worth £40m to direct enforcement action against people in the UK illegally in order to reduce the pressure on local areas.

The Fund is directed at achieving benefits for established resident communities. The local services element of the Fund will support a broad range of measures:

- Activities to build community cohesion and encourage integration
- Tackling the increase in rough sleeping by non-UK nationals
- Tackling rogue landlords
- Other approaches
- Evidence and local intelligence

The CMF Prospectus containing further details and the Proposal Form, and a FAQ factsheet, are available [here](#).

Restart Refugee Support Programme

The [Restart Refugee Support \(RRS\) programme](#) has as its primary goal to contribute to the rapid economic adjustment of professional refugees resettled in the UK by supporting individuals' own efforts towards self-sufficiency.

The RRS programme provides cost and interest-free loans for activities which lay the groundwork for durable economic integration. The programme is based on the belief that financial independence brought about by economic integration gives people choices, drives growth in their economies and inspires others in their communities.

The Life Chances Fund

The Life Chances Fund (LCF) is an £80m fund, which aims to help those people in society who face the most significant barriers to leading happy and productive lives.

The £80m has been committed by central government to contribute to outcome payments for payments by results (PbR) contracts which involve socially minded investors - i.e. towards Social Impact Bonds (SIBs). These contracts must be locally commissioned and aim to tackle complex social problems.

The overall objective of the LCF is to help people in society who face the most significant barriers to leading happy and productive lives. It will do this by:

- Increasing the number and scale of SIBs in England;
- Making it easier and quicker to set up a SIB;
- Generating public sector efficiencies by delivering better outcomes and using this to understand how cashable savings are;
- Increasing social innovation and building a clear evidence base of what works;
- Increasing the amount of capital available to a wider range of voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector providers to enable them to compete for public sector contracts;

- Providing better evidence of the effectiveness of the SIB mechanism and the savings that are being accrued; and
- Growing the scale of the social investment market.

The LCF will issue thematic call outs, or invitations for bids from applicants for SIBs across six themes:

- Drug and alcohol dependency – e.g. early diagnosis and treatment
- Children’s services – e.g. reducing time spent in residential care, preventing entry into care; supporting unaccompanied asylum seekers under age 16 to find stable foster placements
- Young people – e.g. NEET prevention, youth unemployment and youth justice
- Early years – e.g. early intervention, school preparedness and education
- Healthy lives – e.g. long term health conditions, public health interventions
- Older people’s services – e.g. independent living, adult social care and social isolation

The fund is now open for Expressions of interest (EOIs) for Social Impact Bonds for all six themes. Expressions of Interest must be submitted by noon 15th September 2017 via the [LCF website](#) where you can find more information and guidance on the policy areas.

Goldman Sachs Syria Grant Fund

The Syria Grant Fund is a national fund to support and enable resettled refugees from Syria to access employment, training and education opportunities, as well as develop their English language skills. Funded by Goldman Sachs Gives, and administered by the Refugee Council, this fund will give resettled refugees from Syria access to vital resources to facilitate and enhance their integration into British life. Grants will be paid directly to individuals, and not to the organisations supporting them. The Grant Fund is open throughout the year and applications can be made at any time.

Anyone who has been resettled to the UK under the Vulnerable Person Resettlement Programme (VPR) - of any nationality - can apply to the grant for financial support to access employment, education or training opportunities; either for themselves and/or their families. The fund is also open to people wishing to improve their level of English to enable them to move closer to the labour market. Individuals resettled via the Community Sponsorship Scheme can also apply. The Grant Fund is to meet the cost of specific items which relate to the individual moving towards employment or education, for example clothing for an interview, fees to access a College Course, or childcare costs (OFSTED/Care Inspectorate registered childcare providers only) to enable someone to attend a training course. The Grant Fund does not cover costs for any electronic equipment such as mobile phones, laptops or tablets. However the Fund can support an application for financing an IT course, to enable someone to improve their computer skills and search for work online. Further detail including how to apply can be found at www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/syriagrantsfund.

Training and Events

Supporting child victims of trafficking (13 September, London) (£70)

This one-day training course by Coram Children's Legal Centre equips non-legal professionals with an understanding of the problem of child trafficking in the UK, how to identify potential victims of child trafficking in practice, the legal framework including the National Referral Mechanism and the relationship between trafficking and the asylum process and the criminal justice system, and providing effective support and protection.

Click [here](#) for further details.

The Rights and Entitlements of Young Refugees and Migrants (19 September, London) (£84)

Coram Children's Legal Centre's one-day training course (Tuesday 19 September 2017, 10:00am to 4:30pm) covers law, policy and processes affecting migrant and asylum-seeking children and young people, focusing on unaccompanied children who are looked after and care leavers. Participants gain an understanding of these children's particular needs and vulnerabilities, gaining a practical understanding of how to support them across different areas: the asylum and immigration system, trafficking, age assessment, care and support including transition at 18 and 21, and access to education.

Click [here](#) for further details.

NRPF and human rights assessments for Children and families (20 Sept, London) (£150)

This course by the NRPF Network aims to provide participants with information about the relevant legislation to be able to undertake legally sound child in need and human rights assessments for children and families with no recourse to public funds. Click [here](#) for further details and to book.

Self-care and Vicarious Trauma (27 September, Melton Mowbray) (£175 – buy one, get one half price)

Frontline staff who are at risk of vicarious trauma because they work with asylum seekers or refugees who have been through serious trauma or torture need to be able to recognise the impact of vicarious trauma on themselves and be equipped with strategies to mitigate this.

Hosted by East Midlands Councils, Self-care and Vicarious Trauma is Freedom from Torture's most in-demand course, which they have delivered throughout the UK since 2011. This course is designed for front-line professionals from all disciplines, with an emphasis on those working with unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

The aim of the course is to provide participants with a greater base of knowledge and tools to deal with the risks of working with individuals who have experienced serious trauma. The course will enable participants to identify risk factors, indicators of vicarious trauma and to develop approaches and strategies to reduce the risk as well as the impact of vicarious trauma and its consequences.

Click [here](#) for further details and to reserve a place.

Tackling Modern Slavery in UK Businesses/ Global Supply Chains (various dates/ locations in September and October)

Stronger Together offers training solutions to assist business in tackling modern slavery. In September, they are running open workshops covering “Tackling Modern Slavery in UK Businesses” and “Tackling Modern Slavery in Global Supply Chains”. For more details and to book, click [here](#).

Access to education for migrant children (3 October, London) (Free)

This free training session by Coram Children’s Legal Centre is designed to give an overview of legal entitlements and issues around access to education for children and young people who are within the immigration or asylum systems. Education at all levels will be covered: compulsory education, ESOL, college and university. Click [here](#) for further details and to book.

Seminar: the registration of children as British citizens (8 Nov, London) (£30)

Co-delivered by Coram Children’s Legal Centre and the Project for the Registration of Children as British Citizens, this training session provides an introduction for non-legal professionals to registering children as British citizens, including identifying children who might be eligible, how the process works, and where to go for further advice and assistance. Click [here](#) for further details and to book.

Mental Health Support for Asylum Seekers and Refugees Providing Emotional First Aid for Refugees: Third Annual Conference (7 December, Manchester)

The Third National Summit will focus on improving Mental Health Support for Asylum Seekers and Refugees including providing Emotional First Aid for Refugees. The conference is designed to enable delegates to gain a greater understanding of mental health support for asylum seekers and refugees and acquire CPD accreditation points contributing to professional development. Further details are available [here](#).

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Future East Midlands SMP Briefings

The next Strategic Migration Partnership Briefing will be October 2017.

If you have received this Briefing via a colleague and would like to receive it directly, would like to unsubscribe, or have any comments or suggestions for future content, please contact:

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