

# East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership Briefing

July 2018

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 686 unaccompanied children. Within the East Midlands, five of the nine upper tier authorities are currently accepting transfers. Participation in the scheme remains voluntary.

#### Home Office Review of UASC Funding

In August last year, the Home Office announced a review of the UASC funding rates. The East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership submitted detailed evidence to the consultation, based on UASC costs data provided by all upper tier authorities in the region. Following the consultation period, the Home Office established a Working Group to advise them in developing recommendations for the UASC funding review. The Group's membership includes representatives from the East Midlands. The outcome of the review is awaited.

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

Section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 requires the Government to relocate to the UK and support a specified number of unaccompanied children from Europe. In line with this provision to the Immigration Act 2016, and following consultation with local authorities, the Government set the specified number at 480. Over 220 children are here and transfers are ongoing. Further details of the Government's support for unaccompanied asylum-seeking and refugee children can be found in the Written Ministerial Statements published on [8 February](#) , [26 April](#) 2017, and [19 January 2018](#) as well as the Home Office's updated "Dubs" [policy statement](#). 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 for these arrivals from France, Greece and Italy.

## **Section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 leave ('section 67 leave')**

In June, the Government laid Immigration Rules to introduce a new form of immigration leave – section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 leave ('section 67 leave') – for those transferred to the UK under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 (known as the Dubs amendment) who do not qualify for international protection (i.e. refugee status or humanitarian protection). The published statement is available [here](#).

The Government is clear in its commitment to ensuring that the vulnerable children relocated to the UK under section 67 will have everything they need to be able to start a new life in the UK. In keeping with commitments in the legislation, and in line with those granted Refugee or humanitarian protection leave, individuals who qualify for section 67 leave will have the right to study, work, access public funds and healthcare and apply for indefinite leave to remain without paying a fee after five years.

## **Developing resources for local authority practitioners supporting migrant young people**

The No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) Network is extending its advice and support provision for practitioners working with older migrant children in care and care leavers

The Department for Education and the Controlling Migration Fund are currently funding a NRPF Network project to develop specialist practice guidance and tools for local authority practitioners working with migrant children in care and care leavers who are navigating the complex asylum or immigration processes. Further details are available [here](#).

## **The Guardian: Suicides raise alarm about UK's treatment of child refugees**

The Guardian reports that at least three teenage refugees who arrived in Britain from the migrant camp in Calais have killed themselves in the past six months, raising questions about how the Home Office and local authorities handle profoundly vulnerable asylum-seeking children and young people in the UK.

Three young men from Eritrea, two of them aged 18 and one aged 19, have taken their own lives in London since last November. All of them fled conflict in Eritrea, travelling without their parents across Africa and Europe as young teenagers, and all spent time in the Calais migrant camp. To read more, click [here](#).

## **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**.

## **The Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS)**

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

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.

Following a policy change last year, any family who had made Syria their home and had to flee as a result of the conflict now qualifies 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.

### **An Inspection of the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme**

In May, an [inspection of the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme](#) by the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration was presented to Parliament. This inspection examined the efficiency and effectiveness of the VPRS, specifically the progress made by the Home Office towards delivering the government's target of resettling 20,000 refugees in the UK by 2020, the processes for selecting refugees for resettlement via the Scheme and efforts to integrate refugees prior to their departure for the UK and once they have been resettled.

### **Home Office awards £1 million to help communities support refugees**

The funding, which was [announced by the Home Office in July 2017](#), will be used by the civil society organisation Reset to provide training and support to help communities across the UK who want to welcome and integrate refugees through the community sponsorship resettlement initiative.

The intention is that this will help encourage more groups to come forward to take part in the scheme.

Reset is a new organisation, funded by the Home Office and philanthropic foundations, which mobilises the skills and resources of communities, faith groups, businesses and charities who want to support refugees affected by the Syrian crisis, as they rebuild their lives in the UK.

Community sponsorship was launched in 2016 and has already helped resettle 138 refugees who have been welcomed by 24 community sponsor groups across the UK, some of whom have sponsored more than one refugee family.

## **BBC news report – Where have the UK's 10,000 Syrian refugees gone?**

The UK has accepted more than 10,000 Syrian refugees in the past two and a half years - but analysis by the BBC shows large disparities in the numbers going to different parts of the country.

Scotland has taken four times as many Syrian refugees as Greater London, while Northern Ireland has taken over 300 more than the whole of the east of England. Relative to their populations, northern England has taken over twice as many Syrian refugees as the South. Overall, almost a third of local authorities are yet to take any Syrian refugees.

The [BBC analysis](#) looks at the Home Office's breakdown of local authority intake of Syrian refugees and weighs this against the population size.

## **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](mailto:Brein.Fisher@emcouncils.gov.uk)

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

## **Changes to Immigration Rules**

Policy guidance for [asylum claims involving children](#) has been updated, as has guidance for [short-term student visas](#). Also to note are changes in detention services orders, relating to the [management of adults at risk](#) and to the [reporting](#) of particularly vulnerable detainees.

## **NSPCC report: Uprooted and unprotected - A multi-agency approach to safeguarding children forced into migration through northern France**

The NSPCC's Child Trafficking Advice Centre (CTAC) advises professionals in the UK on child trafficking cases and works with agencies around the world to prevent child trafficking. [This report](#) highlights learning from CTAC's work with the Refugee Youth Service (RYS), safeguarding children who had lived in the Calais 'Jungle'. RYS refers children to CTAC when it suspects they have moved from France to the UK. CTAC then shares child protection information with relevant UK agencies and tries to establish the children's whereabouts. This report is accompanied by a [workbook](#) for professionals to use with young people who have been forced into migration and may have stayed in camps in northern France. The resource is now available to social workers to help them better understand the needs of children who have been trafficked or are at risk of being trafficked.

## **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.

## **Children & Social Work Act 2017 – impact on migrant children and care leavers**

Provisions of the [Children and Social Work Act 2017](#), which enhance local authority duties that apply to looked after children and care leavers, came into force in England on 1 April 2018. The government has published [statutory guidance](#) which sets out how these new duties should be implemented.

In its [summary of the new provisions](#), the NRPF Network highlights that care leavers with NRPF may receive advice from age 21 to 25 but not accommodation, and considers how these changes are likely to affect the support given to looked after migrant children and care leavers, including unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASCs).

## **Leaving care support – new fact sheet**

Coram's Migrant Children's Project's [new fact sheet](#) sets out entitlements to leaving care support for migrant children and young people, as well as information on under what circumstances such support can be removed. For information on local authority care for migrant children, see MCP's fact sheets [on local authority support for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children](#) and [children in care with immigration issues](#).

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## **Migration**

### **Latest immigration statistics released**

The Government's latest [immigration statistics \(year ending March 2018\)](#) 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.

In the year ending March 2018, there were 14,166 grants of asylum, alternative forms of protection and resettlement, down 11% compared with 15,973 in the previous year. This comprised:

- 6,865 grants of asylum to main applicants and dependants (down 17%)

- 1,541 grants of alternative form of protection to main applicants and their dependants (up 16%)
- 5,760 people provided with protection under a resettlement scheme (down 9%)

Of the 14,166 people granted asylum, protection and resettlement, 5,953 (42%) were children (under 18 years old).

The number of asylum applications in the UK from main applicants decreased by 8% to 26,547 in the year ending March 2018. The fall in asylum applications reflects a return to levels seen before the European migration crisis in 2015. The falls are consistent with what has been seen more widely across Europe, with a decrease of around 41% in applications to EU countries in the last year.

There were 774 grants of asylum or alternative forms of protection to Syrian nationals (including dependants) at initial decision in the year ending March 2018 (down 49%).

A total of 5,760 people were resettled in the UK in the year ending March 2018 under various schemes. This included 4,342 Syrian nationals who were provided protection under the Vulnerable Person Resettlement Scheme (VPRS), bringing the total number of Syrians provided protection to 11,649 since the scheme began in 2014.

There were 2,307 asylum applications from UASC in the year ending March 2018, a 25% decrease compared to the previous year, falling after two consecutively high years. The largest numbers of asylum applications from UASC were from Sudanese and Eritrean nationals, together accounting for over 30% of all UASC applications. This was followed by Vietnamese nationals (11%) and Iraqi nationals (11%).

### **Put human rights at the centre of migration policies, says Council of Europe**

A [statement](#) by the Council of Europe released this month reaffirms the EU's commitment to humanitarian rescue in the Mediterranean, demands heightened scrutiny of "disembarkation sites" outside of Europe, and more generally enjoins member states to remember the human rights commitments they are bound to when it comes to dealing with border control.

### **Brexit: EU Citizens' Rights and Settlement Scheme**

The Government's '[Stay Informed](#)' campaign provides EU citizens in the UK with official sources of information about how the UK's withdrawal from the EU affects EU citizens.

The UK Government has reached an agreement with the European Union. This agreement will protect EU citizens' rights after the UK leaves the EU and will enable them to continue to live as now. It also covers family members. The Government has published further details of the agreement on the page, [Status of EU citizens in the UK: what you need to know](#).

## **Roma communities fear deportation in post-Brexit Britain**

The Guardian [reports](#) that Roma living in the UK are at risk of deportation following Brexit. Charities warn that many will be unable to provide the necessary documentation to be granted settled status.

Charities working with Roma communities across the UK have said that although most Roma are EU citizens and have the right to be in the UK, many are illiterate, would struggle to provide paperwork and do not have access to computers or smartphones.

A Home Office spokesperson said, “We recognise that we need to reach out to and support a wide range of vulnerable groups, such as the Roma, whose needs will vary. These groups will include those that cannot access, or aren’t confident with, technology and non-English speakers.”

EMSMP is working with the Home Office on supporting vulnerable EU migrants and more information will be circulated when it becomes available.

## **EU children and young people - protecting their rights in the UK**

With the UK due to leave the European Union (EU) on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019, Coram’s Migrant Children’s Project has published an [information page on EU national children and young people and protecting their rights in the UK](#). See also [MCP’s guidance](#) for information about EU legal rights which might currently apply to children and young people or their carers, how they might change following Brexit, as well as practical guidance on how to prepare for these changes. Further information about the legal options available to young people is available in Coram CLC’s guide [‘Securing permanent status: existing legal routes for children and young people without leave to remain in the UK’](#).

## **Legal challenge launched over child citizenship fees**

The [Project for the Registration of Children as British Citizens \(PRCBC\)](#) has launched a legal challenge against the Home Office over the fees charged to grant British citizenship to children who are entitled to it. Amnesty International is also supporting the litigation and has [launched a petition](#) against the Home Office to “stop blocking children’s rights”, and have produced a [briefing for local councillors](#).

The citizenship registration fee currently stands at £1,012, a 51% increase since 2014.

## **Advice phone line for homeless EEA nationals opens**

The [Public Interest Law Unit \(PILU\)](#) has opened a phone advice and referral line from 25 June 2018.

The phone line will be open Monday-Friday (10am-4pm) at **07856 539 582**. The phone will be answered in English but a call-back can be arranged with an interpreter. The phone line is open for direct and second-tier advice as well as referrals. PILU will work with all EEA nationals affected by

homelessness or at risk – people vulnerably housed, moving from place to place as well as those sleeping rough.

### **Social services' support for undocumented Commonwealth citizens – Best Practice Guidance**

Recent media reports have highlighted that a number of Commonwealth citizens, who have been living in the UK since childhood, are facing destitution, having lost access to employment and benefits when they have been unable to prove their right to work and that they have recourse to public funds. Some have been denied hospital treatment without upfront payment where they have been unable to demonstrate that they have settled status.

The NRPF Network has [published an article](#) intended to provide a guide for local authorities on what needs to be considered when an undocumented Commonwealth citizen requests help with housing and/or has social care needs.

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

### **HASC Report – Home Office needs major reform to avoid Windrush scandal repeat**

A [report by the Home Affairs Select Committee](#) has found that the Windrush generation were caught up in a series of different policy, cultural and organisational changes in the Home Office, including the removal of caseworker discretion, the removal of independent checks and balances such as appeals or legal aid, the use of targets, and a raft of laws collectively known as the 'hostile' or, more recently, 'compliant' environment. Major changes are needed in each of these areas.

The report welcomes the Windrush taskforce but calls for more action including an appeal process for rejected Windrush cases, a hardship fund and the publication of the redacted Home Office guidance to provide clarity and transparency. The report calls for a number of urgent changes and reforms to deliver on the objective the Home Secretary has set for a 'fair and humane' immigration system – including an overhaul of the casework culture, restoring immigration appeals and legal aid, and removal of the net migration target. It also calls for an evaluation of the entire suite of hostile environment measures, questioning whether they should continue in anything like their current form.

### **Home Secretary launches Windrush scheme**

The Home Secretary has introduced legislation to bring into force a package of measures under the [Windrush Scheme](#). The legislation enables the government to process citizenship applications for the Windrush generation – Commonwealth nationals who settled in the UK before 1973 – free of charge. It also includes free citizenship applications for children of the Windrush generation who joined their parents before they turned 18 and free confirmation of the existing British citizenship for children born to the Windrush generation in the UK where needed.

## **New study confirms positive economic impact of immigration**

In a [study published in Science Advances](#) recently, economists have used cutting-edge statistical to demonstrate the positive impact of immigration on European economies. Drawing on a prize-winning dynamic statistical model and 30 years of data from 15 countries in Western Europe, the researchers distinguished different types of migration flow and isolated the macroeconomic trends associated with them, including GDP per capita, unemployment rate, and public finances. The conclusions are unambiguous: immigration is an economic benefit for European countries.

## **Guardian article that highlights the number of visas for NHS doctors refused in last five months**

The Guardian [reports](#) on data obtained by a freedom of information enquiry from solicitors Eversheds Sutherland that reveals that more than 2,300 visa applications have been refused – meaning that only one in three applications have been accepted. The Home Secretary has said that he is [taking a fresh look](#) at the cap on skilled migrants.

## **The Guardian: NHS will no longer have to share immigrants' data with Home Office**

The Guardian [reports](#) that Ministers have suspended controversial arrangements under which the NHS shared patients' details with the Home Office so it could trace people breaking immigration rules.

The government's change in approach on a key element of its "hostile environment" approach to immigration came after MPs, doctors' groups and health charities warned that the practice was scaring some patients from seeking NHS care for medical problems.

## **Latest immigration bail conditions keeping migrants detained indefinitely**

A [briefing](#) by [Bail for Immigration Detainees \(BiD\)](#), drawing on evidence from its support work, shows that changes to immigration bail conditions have effectively removed accommodation support, thus keeping vulnerable migrants in indefinite detention, or releasing them into homelessness.

## **Combatting modern slavery in the East Midlands – Our collective responsibility: a letter from Deputy Chief Constable Chris Haward (EMSOU)**

Unfortunately, slavery is still prevalent in our society despite having been abolished in 1833. It is reported there are at least 13,000 victims of slavery in the UK although this is believed to be a huge underestimation and the scale of victimisation is likely to be much greater. Some of the key sectors affected include cleaning, catering, clothing, logistics, construction, manufacturing, food and agriculture. British nationals are as likely to be enslaved as many other nationalities – this is not a

foreign problem but one that exploits whoever happens to be most vulnerable regardless of nationality, race or location.

Whilst the Modern Slavery Act (MSA) 2015 sets out legal requirements for organisations with a turnover above £36 million I believe our collective responsibility goes beyond simple adherence to legislation. People's lives are being abused, exploited and in many cases lost as organised crime groups exploit weaknesses in our policies, practice and awareness of Modern Slavery. This exploitation will exist in the supply of goods and services to local government, local authorities and public services. It is incumbent on us all to ensure we do what we can to stop this.

As the slavery lead for East Midlands Police Forces I, and Mark Heath (Deputy Director, Gangmasters & Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA)), need your help if we are to rid the UK of slavery and make the East Midlands a hostile environment in which those exploiting slavery can operate. Slavery can only be beaten through strong partnership with all organisations taking social responsibility to prevent this abuse in the first place. You can help by taking action to ensure your labour and related supply chains are slave free. But you can also help by raising awareness within your teams and partners, promoting positive practice and introducing positive policies about the health, safety and wellbeing of your staff which include combating slavery.

There is a wealth of guidance and help already available:

- GLAA Website: <http://www.gla.gov.uk/>
- Stronger2gether: <https://www.stronger2gether.org/>
- Home Office Advice: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/modern-slavery>
- Modern Slavery Helpline: <https://www.modernslaveryhelpline.org>

These are just a few examples where advice can be obtained covering topics such as the 'Duty to Inform'; 'How to Report Modern Slavery'; 'Transparency in Supply Chains' and much more. Mark and I urge you to take the time to look at this guidance and what you can do to beat slavery. It will demonstrate how this can impact upon your area of business, giving you positive ways to deal with slavery where you identify a threat or person in need of help.

Deputy Chief Constable (EM) Chris Haward Contact Email: <a href="mailto:chris.haward@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk">chris.haward@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk</a>	Deputy Director Mark Heath Contact Email: <a href="mailto:mark.heath@gla.gsi.gov.uk">mark.heath@gla.gsi.gov.uk</a>
<p>East Midlands Special Operations Unit</p> 	 <b>Gangmasters &amp; Labour Abuse Authority</b>

## **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](#).

## **Report highlights gaps in support for trafficking victims**

The [Centre for the Study of Modern Slavery](#) has released [a report](#) highlighting gaps in support – especially long-term support – for victims of human trafficking and modern slavery in the UK.

The report is based on original research commissioned by the Human Trafficking Foundation. The research attempted to “understand what long term support currently exists, where the gaps are, and what additional support is required” and found “gaps in knowledge and understanding amongst frontline personnel at all stages of the journey of recovery, often with severe consequences.” Amongst a range of recommendations, the authors call for greater resourcing of services to work with the complexity of survivor needs.

## **The Independent: Home Office broke law by failing to protect child trafficking victim, court rules in landmark case**

The Independent [reports](#) that the Home Office has broken the law by failing to protect a child trafficking victim who subsequently went missing, a court has ruled. In a [landmark case](#), a Court of Appeal judge said the government had breached human rights law after a child believed to have been trafficked to the UK from Vietnam was released from immigration detention, with no measures put in place to protect him.

The impact of the case has been considered by the East Midlands UASC Leads Group.

## **IOM launches map to help companies fight human trafficking**

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has launched an interactive map of anti-human trafficking initiatives and organizations ([modernslaverymap.org](https://modernslaverymap.org)) to help businesses fight human trafficking. The map will give companies and other institutions a global list of initiatives to help them fight this phenomenon within their operations and in the production chain.

## **New monthly bulletin on No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF)**

Migrants Rights Network will shortly be launching a new monthly bulletin on NRPF. The bulletin will aim to be a good way to share expertise and actions on NRPF, and to stay up to date with latest

policy developments. More details will be available soon but in the meantime you can sign up to receive the bulletin [here](#).

### **Home Office Disrespect NoBody Campaign - Teaching Resources**

The PSHE Association and the Home Office have launched new and improved teaching resources which support the government's [Disrespect NoBody](#) campaign.

- The campaign aims to help young people:
  - understand what a healthy relationship is and;
- re-think their views of controlling behaviour, violence, abuse, sexual abuse and what consent means within their relationships

It also aims to help young people develop key skills and attributes such as empathy, respect, communication and negotiation so that they can enjoy healthy relationships as they grow up and in adulthood. By promoting healthy attitudes and behaviours at an early age, the campaign seeks to challenge damaging ones and prevent the onset of domestic violence in adults in the long term.

The resources (which are [free to download here](#)) have been developed in consultation with PSHE teachers and include:

- A campaign discussion guide
- Discussion guides, lesson plans and ready-made template slide decks on three topics: relationship abuse, sharing sexual images and consent
- Interactive classroom activities, including agony aunt responses, true or false questions and myth busting activities

### **Leicester social enterprise service is rated as Outstanding by the Care Quality Commission**

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has found the quality of care provided by the [Assist Practice](#), part of the Inclusion Healthcare Social Enterprise CIC in Leicester, to be Outstanding following an inspection carried out in March 2018. In their report published 10th May 2018. Inspectors found that the city centre primary health care service which provides care for asylum seekers and refugees was providing an innovative, compassionate and responsive service to all of its patients.

A full report of the inspection is available here: <http://www.cqc.org.uk/location/1-1984959975>

### **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.

### **English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Mapping Exercise**

East Midlands Councils is working in partnership with emfec to map formal and informal adult ESOL provision across the East Midlands. Working with local authorities, providers and stakeholders, the mapping exercise aims to support the planning and coordination of ESOL provision to support the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS). The full report can be accessed from [here](#). Emfec is a membership body for the further education and skills sector in the East Midlands.

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## **Funding**

### **Integrated Communities Innovation Fund**

A new £7 million fund to support trailblazing approaches to building more integrated communities in England was launched earlier this month by Secretary of State for Communities Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP. The Integrated Communities Innovation Fund will help drive forward the proposals to tackle the key causes of poor integration set out in the government's Integrated Communities Strategy green paper launched in March 2018.

The new Innovation Fund aims to support trailblazing projects that will share their learning more widely, allowing other areas to develop proven approaches to tackling the key causes of poor integration. MHCLG is inviting applications to support approaches which help build integrated communities. This includes projects that use sport and physical activity to encourage integration. The government will be working in partnership with Sport England, which is contributing to the new Integrated Communities Innovation Fund, to support projects of this type.

The government has also announced support for a new Cohesion and Integration Network. This will bring together organisations and individuals from across national and local government, business, and voluntary and community groups to share their ideas, knowledge and experience.

For more visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-funding-for-innovative-projects-to-build-stronger-communities>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/integrated-communities-innovation-fund>

## **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, a FAQ factsheet, and details of funding already distributed, 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.

## **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 VPRS - of any nationality - can apply 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. Further detail including how to apply can be found at [www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/syriagrantfund](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/syriagrantfund).

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## **Training and Events**

### **Online awareness-raising training about torture and help support victims in the UK (free)**

REDRESS has prepared a free e-learning course designed for community organisations and similar organisations without specialist legal knowledge.

The training is designed for community organisations and similar organisations without specialist legal knowledge who have contact with migrants and asylum seekers in the UK, and aims to raise awareness about the following:

- The concept of torture in the international human rights framework
- How to seek accountability for torture
- The aspects of the international human rights system which may be most useful to those who are in contact with torture survivors within the asylum system, or others at risk of mistreatment in immigration detention.

Further details are available [here](#).

### **Online Council of Europe Toolkit – language support (free)**

The Council of Europe has developed a [toolkit](#) (available in seven languages) to support member states in their efforts to respond to the challenges posed by unprecedented migration flows. The toolkit is designed to assist organisations, and especially volunteers, providing language support for adult asylum seekers and refugees.

### **Access to education for migrant children (17 September, London) (£36)**

This 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.

### **The Rights and Entitlements of Young Refugees and Migrants (4 October, London) (£108)**

Coram Children's Legal Centre's one-day training course (4 October 2018, 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.

### **Triple Pathway Planning Training (15 October, Birmingham) (£125)**

Entraide's one-day training course is for all those who are involved in working with or supporting unaccompanied asylum seeking children and care leavers and who will be involved in undertaking needs assessments and pathway planning. The course covers relevant legislation and best practice, and will explore the implications of the introduction of the Immigration Act 2016. Participants gain an understanding of how to plan for the three possible outcomes for those with uncertain immigration status beyond the age of 18, including considerations when undertaking lawful assessments of educational need, and best practice when preparing young people for return to country of origin.

For further information, click [here](#) or email [felixkupay@entraideuk.org.uk](mailto:felixkupay@entraideuk.org.uk)

### **Mental Health Support for Asylum Seekers and Refugees Providing Emotional First Aid for Refugees: Fifth Annual Conference (16 November, London)**

This national Improving Mental Health Support for Asylum Seekers and Refugees conference will enable you to:

- Network with colleagues who are working to improve mental health support for refugees and asylum seekers
- Understand the vulnerabilities that lead to mental health issues in refugees and asylum seekers
- Examine how to set up holistic services that meet the mental health needs of refugees and asylum seekers

- Learn from the experiences of the Red Cross and Doctors of the World in delivering multitiered and comprehensive MHPSS Systems & Psychological First Aid
- Improve skills in working with asylum seekers and refugees who have experienced trauma
- Develop strategies for providing peer and community support
- Improve practice in building resilience and improving care of unaccompanied young people seeking asylum

For further details, click [here](#).

### **Tackling Modern Slavery in UK Businesses (9 January 2019, Branston, Lincoln, £125-195)**

Stronger Together offers training solutions to assist business in tackling modern slavery. Forced labour is a hidden crime undertaken by exploitative individuals and criminal gangs. Many employers are not aware of how this exploitation may be taking place in their businesses and UK supply chains today. This one-day participatory course aims to inform and equip delegates to address forced labour, implement good practice and minimise the risk to their business. For details and to book, click [here](#).

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### **Future East Midlands SMP Briefings**

The next Strategic Migration Partnership Briefing will be October 2018.

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:

[Matt Clarke](#), UASC Policy Officer, East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership.