

East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership Briefing

April – June 2021

Quarter 1

The East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership Briefing brings together different sources of information relating to Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Migrants covering the first quarter of 2021, from April – June 2021.

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EMSMP Update

The East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership has a dedicated [Twitter account](#) as well as a designated [Migration Hub](#) with East Midlands Councils webpage to keep partners up to date with related news, upcoming events and training, employment opportunities, and lots more.

To keep posted: Follow us on Twitter- [@SMP_EastMids](#) or visit our website [here](#).

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COVID-19

EMSMP COVID-19 Online Resource

Due to the ever-changing situation of COVID-19, EMSMP continue to update their [webpage](#) which contains government updates, materials, and guidance on areas within migration, including Asylum, ESOL, VPRS, UASC and more. This is updated daily in line with new announcements and resources.

To access this, please click [here](#).

Asylum Seekers and Refugees

Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP)

On 29 December 2020, the Defence Secretary and Home Secretary announced the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP). This is a new scheme that will offer relocation or other assistance to current and former Locally Employed Staff in Afghanistan to reflect the changing situation in Afghanistan.

The ARAP scheme launched on 01 April 2021 and will continue to remain open and operate indefinitely. The scheme will be delivered by the MOD in the new Afghan Threat and Risk Evaluation Unit (ATREU) in the British Embassy Kabul.

Should you have any question relating to the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy (ARAP), please contact Brein Fisher, Regional Migration Manager at brein.fisher@emcouncils.gov.uk

Asylum Seekers

Asylum right to work policy changed

On the 4th May, it was published that the Home Office updated their policy guidance on when asylum seekers can get permission to work and volunteer, following two cases finding the previous version unlawful. It explicitly mentions that exceptions can be made to the strict rules against working while awaiting an asylum decision. The document also contains new contact details for requesting permission to work.

To read the full update and access the new contact details, click [here](#).

Community Sponsorship

The UK Community Sponsorship scheme was launched on 19 July 2016. The scheme allows community groups to support refugee families directly and aims to help them become self-sufficient and integrated members of the community.

In the year ending March 2021, 73 of the 324 refugees resettled under the VPRS and VCRS, were resettled through Community Sponsorship. Since the VPRS and VCRS schemes ended, refugees resettled under Community Sponsorship are recorded separately to the other schemes – 4 people were resettled under the Community Sponsorship scheme in the month of March 2021.

To get further details on Community Sponsorship, click [here](#).

Hong Kong BN(O)

Statistics

On 31 January 2021 the UK Government introduced a new immigration route for British National (Overseas) (BN(O)) status holders, providing the opportunity for them and their family members to live, work and study in the UK. The data below relates to the first quarter of 2021, January to March and is derived from management information. This data is rounded to the nearest hundred. Data for Q2 2021 will be published on 26th August 2021.

There were 34,300 applications for the BN(O) route in Q1 of 2021, with 20,600 out of country applications, and 13,700 in country applications. Of the total, 20,000 were main applicants and 14,300 were dependants.

There were 5,600 grants of out of country BN(O) visas made in Q1 of 2021, of which 3,600 were for main applicants and 2,000 were for dependants. There were 1,600 grants of in country BN(O) visas made in Q1 of 2021, of which 1,200 were main applicants and 400 were dependants.

As expected, the majority of grants (86%) were to BN(O) and/or Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) passport holders. Dependants holding passports for countries other than HKSAR accounted for 41% of grants to dependants.

In Q1 of 2021, an estimated 5,500 BN(O) and/or HKSAR passport holders were granted “leave outside the rules” at the UK border. This figure is taken from the latest internal management information and is subject to revision.

The statistics can be found [here](#).

Should you have any question relating to the Hong Kong BN(O), please contact Brein Fisher, Regional Migration Manager at brein.fisher@emcouncils.gov.uk.

New role for Resettlement Policy Officer (Hong Kong British Nationals Overseas) within the East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership open now

To find out more, please visit the [jobs section](#).

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)

The UASC National Transfer Scheme (NTS)

The [National Transfer Scheme](#) (NTS) 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 702 unaccompanied children. Within the East Midlands, five of the nine upper tier authorities are participating, although the Scheme is effectively paused currently. Participation in the scheme remains voluntary.

Changes to the National Transfer Scheme

Following a joint consultation last year by the Home Office and Department for Education, on 10 June 2021 the government announced [the launch of new arrangements for the NTS](#), aiming to ensure responsibility for unaccompanied children seeking asylum will be more fairly distributed. The changes to the scheme will encourage more local authorities to take part in a planned schedule for taking into care children who arrive in the UK alone and claim asylum – ensuring all areas in the UK play their part.

The scheme will provide local authorities with increased funding and take into account local pressures on local services. By having a 'rota' of these transfers, the updated scheme will provide regions and local authorities with greater clarity as to the number of children to expect and the timing of those placements, allowing them time to plan ahead and better manage their capacity.

The improved voluntary scheme includes increased funding totalling more than £20m for local authorities (backdated from 1 April this year) to support former care leavers, and additional support for local authorities with a pilot team of expert social workers to support local authorities throughout the UK on age assessment, ahead of broader age assessment reforms under the New Plan for Immigration.

The changes to the National Transfer Scheme will come into effect as soon as possible.

The South Coast

The situation along the south coast, and in Kent in particular, has been widely reported in the national media, with significant numbers of asylum seekers, including unaccompanied children, arriving across the Channel in small boats. Kent County Council recently announced that they are unable to accept any further new arrivals into care. Since then, unaccompanied children arriving in Kent stay at the port

while alternative arrangements are sought. A letter from government has been received by local authorities, requesting urgent support. In response, the East Midlands has offered support, pledging to receive a number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children from Kent, with the response ongoing.

If you would be interested in finding out more about the National Transfer Scheme, please contact Matthew.Clarke@emcouncils.gov.uk

The Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS)/ United Kingdom Resettlement Scheme (UKRS)

Statistics

There were 353 people granted protection through resettlement schemes in the year ending March 2021, 93% fewer than in the previous year. Resettlement activity was paused in March 2020 following the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, with no resettlement taking place between April and November 2020. Resettlement resumed in December 2020, with 345 people resettled in the first quarter of 2021.

In February 2021, the UK met its target to resettle 20,000 refugees under the Vulnerable Person Resettlement Scheme (VPRS). Following this, the government launched the new UK resettlement scheme (UKRS), bringing to an end the VPRS, Vulnerable Children Resettlement Scheme (VCRS), and the Gateway Scheme (see the user guide for further details). In its first month (March 2021), the UKRS resettled 25 refugees.

In total 20,319 refugees were resettled under the VPRS between March 2014-February 2021. An additional 1838 people were resettled under the VCRS between October 2016-February 2021. Of those resettled under the VPRS and VCRS, 522 were resettled through community sponsorship (484 under the VPRS, 38 under the VCRS).

In the East Midlands, 935 refugees have been resettled through both the VPRS and the VCRS.

The link to the full statistics can be found [here](#).

Further details of VPRS Programme

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. This resource can be accessed [here](#).

If your council would be interested in finding out more about the Scheme, please contact Brein.Fisher@emcouncils.gov.uk.

New role for Resettlement Policy Officer (UK Resettlement Scheme) within the East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership open now

To find out more, please visit the [jobs section](#).

Migration

Education

Stateless leave, section 67 leave, Calais leave: 'home' fees and Student Support in England

The requirements you need to meet to fit into the following categories of 'home' student are changing, for both fees and Student Support in higher education in England:

- Those with section 67 leave, and their dependent children
- Those with Calais leave, and their dependent children
- Those granted stateless leave, and family

For any academic year from 1 August 2021 onwards, there will be no three-year residence test. You will not need to have been living in the UK for three years before starting your course, if you want to pay 'home' fees or get Student Support.

If you tried to apply for a place in the past using one of these categories and found that you did not qualify as a 'home' student, contact the institution again now. If you are already on a course, talk to your institution about changing your fee status for this autumn, and applying for Student Support.

The change is not limited to people starting courses on or after 1 August 2021, it also benefits people who are already on courses.

You can read about the requirements for each of the categories on the UKCISA website which can be accessed [here](#).

Advice and Guidance on refugees access to Higher Education

Office for Office for Students (OfS) have provided effective practice pages on the issues of accessing higher education, advice, examples and resource. To access this page, click [here](#).

UCAS have also provided a good practice briefing on refugees and asylum seekers, undergraduate and postgraduate courses and teacher training. To access, click [here](#).

Student Loans Company contact address for any queries related to specific cases or more generally with regards to eligibility and documentation: Fundinginformationpartners@slc.co.uk

English for Speakers of other Languages (ESOL)

FREE Opportunity for resettled refugees and former asylum seekers to teach ESOL

East Midlands Councils and Flying Cows are offering a free opportunity for resettled refugees and former asylum seekers to teach ESOL.

This course is for people who want to teach students of all ages living in English speaking countries including migrant workers and refugees and their families. Individuals are required to have B1/entry level 3/intermediate level of English

Further details about this course, eligibility and details on how to apply can be found [here](#).

If you are aware of someone who may be interested in either of these courses or want to know more about the funding eligibility, please contact Hannah.Smith@emcouncils.gov.uk

EU Settlement Scheme

Statistics

As of 31 March 2021, just over 5.3 million (5,301,470) applications had been received, with 90% received in England, 5% in Scotland, 2% in Wales and 2% in Northern Ireland. Since the launch of the scheme, October 2019 saw the highest number of applications received (591,580) and the highest number of concluded applications (401,480).

There were 787,680 applications received from people under 18 years of age, 4.4 million (4,391,060) applications from those aged 18 to 64 and 122,720 applications from those aged 65 and above (15%, 83% and 2%, respectively). Northern Ireland had a noticeably higher proportion (19%) of applications from people under 18 compared to the rest of the UK (15% for each nation).

Just under 5 million (4,977,740) applications had been concluded up to 31 March 2021. Of the concluded outcomes, 53% (2,623,720) were granted settled status, 44% (2,173,270) were granted pre-settled status and 3% had other outcomes (including 55,950 refused applications, 60,170 withdrawn or void applications, and 64,580 invalid applications).

The deadline for most people to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme was 30 June 2021. If you or your family are from the EU, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein, you can still apply if you or a family member were living in the UK by 31 December 2020. You must also either meet one of the criteria for a later deadline to apply or have 'reasonable grounds' for not applying by 30 June 2021. You can also apply if you already have pre-settled status, and you're applying for settled status.

Further details on the EUSS can be accessed [here](#) and the most up to date report can be found [here](#).

Migration Statistics

The government's [latest immigration statistics](#) (year ending March 2021) 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.

The UK offered protection, in the form of asylum, humanitarian protection, alternative forms of leave and resettlement, to 8,640 people (including dependants) in the year ending March 2021. This figure is around half (42%) of the number in the year ending March 2020, prior to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the lowest level since 2012. The lower numbers of people given protection in the latest year is mainly due to fewer initial decisions being made on asylum applications (12,968 decisions in the year ending March 2021 compared with 20,552 in the year ending March 2020), as well as the pause to resettlement activity between March and November 2020, both a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- 26,903 asylum applications (relating to 32,411 people) in the UK in the year ending March 2021, around a quarter (24%) fewer than the previous year and similar to levels in 2017. This included

2,044 applications from Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC), down 42% over the period.

- Iran was the top nationality claiming asylum in the UK in the year ending March 2021, as it has been in every year since 2016 (3,523 applications, down 26% compared with the previous year), followed by Albania (2,840, down 19%).
- In the year ending March 2021, there were 12,968 initial decisions made on asylum applications, and almost half (48%) of these were grants of asylum, humanitarian protection or alternative forms of leave (such as discretionary leave or UASC leave), slightly lower than the previous year (54%).
- There were 3,663 appeals lodged on initial decisions in the year ending March 2021, of the appeals resolved over the period, 47% were allowed (meaning the applicant successfully overturned the initial decision).

Additionally, 4,973 people were granted entry through Family reunion visas (issued to partners and children of those previously granted asylum or humanitarian protection in the UK), 37% fewer than the previous year.

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking

National Referral Mechanism Statistics

National Referral Mechanism and Duty to Notify Statistics covering quarter 2 2021 were released on Thursday 5th August. The statistical bulletins give a summary of the number of potential victims referred to the NRM across the UK, as well as the number of potential victims reported via the DtN process in England and Wales. The statistics show that:

- 3,140 potential victims of modern slavery were referred to the Home Office in the second quarter of 2021, representing a 7% increase compared to the preceding quarter (2,942) and a 42% increase from quarter 2 in 2020 (2,204).
- The number of referrals received this quarter is the second highest since the NRM began in 2009 (the highest number was 3,343 in quarter 4 2019)
- 77% (2,421) were male and 23% (717) were female
- 61% (1,912) of potential victims claimed exploitation in the UK only and 28% (882) claimed exploitation overseas only
- 50% (1,564) of referrals were for potential victims who claimed exploitation as adults and 43% (1,357) claimed exploitation as children
- For adult potential victims, labour exploitation was the most common exploitation type reported (32%; 501), whereas child potential victims were most often referred for criminal exploitation (49%; 662)
- The most common nationalities referred this quarter were UK, Albanian and Vietnamese

- The Single Competent Authority (SCA) made 3,086 reasonable grounds and 500 conclusive grounds decisions in this quarter. Of these, 89% of reasonable grounds and 88% of conclusive grounds decisions were positive
- The Home Office received 910 reports of adult potential victims via the DtN process, the highest number of quarterly reports received.

The full statistical bulletin for quarter 2 can be accessed [here](#).

Updates to the Modern Slavery: Statutory Guidance for England and Wales (under s49 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015) and Non-Statutory Guidance for Scotland and Northern Ireland

As stated above, the Modern Slavery: Statutory Guidance for England and Wales (under s49 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015) and Non-Statutory Guidance for Scotland and Northern Ireland has been updated to provide a clear policy basis for the Devolving Child Decision-Making Pilot Programme on 14th June 2021.

Alongside this update, in response to feedback received from the Modern Slavery Guidance Reference Group, a group of stakeholders with direct interest in the Guidance, several further updates have been made to ensure that it is reflective of current policy and practice, and remains useful for decision makers, First Responders, and support providers.

These updates include:

- Minor changes intended to increase understanding of the timescale for a Conclusive Grounds decision
- Additional text relating to child victims, including forced labour and domestic servitude involving children, and a definition and potential indicators of child sexual exploitation
- Additional examples of activities victims of forced criminality may have undertaken
- Addition of text relating to potential victims understanding how their personal information will be processed when referred to the NRM and a hyperlink to the Privacy Information Notice
- Following EU Exit, amendments to the Voluntary Returns Service and consideration of Discretionary Leave for victims of modern slavery for EEA-nationals
- Addition of contact details for the SCA and the structure and roles within the SCA
- Updated wording regarding access to legal aid following changes made by the Ministry of Justice

To access the guidance, click [here](#).

Independent Child Trafficking Guardians (ICTGs) expansion

As part of the NRM Transformation Programme, the Home Office are progressing with the rollout of Independent Child Trafficking Guardians (ICTGs), an independent source of advice for trafficked children. ICTGs are delivered by Barnardo's, have now launched in the following areas: London (except for the Borough of Croydon where the service was already available); Essex; West Yorkshire;

Merseyside; Kent; Surrey; Warwickshire; Bedfordshire; North Yorkshire; Gloucestershire and Bristol; and Lancashire.

The service will continue to operate as usual in the areas where it is already available: Hampshire; Greater Manchester; West Midlands Combined Authorities; East Midlands; the London Borough of Croydon and nationally in Wales.

The ICTG service now covers in total two thirds of local authorities across England and Wales; a key milestone in the NRM Transformation Programme.

To read more about this announcement, click [here](#).

Other

Housing Rights Quarterly Newsletter – July 2021

This edition includes information on the EU Settlement Scheme now the deadline has passed and what this means as well as EU national's rights under the Settlement Scheme. This edition also includes the pressures on the new rough sleeping rule which leads to change and the 'no recourse' rule.

To access the newsletter, click [here](#).

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[Immigration](#)

New role for a Professional Support Lawyer- Immigration within the East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership open now

To find out more, please visit the [jobs section](#).

Immigration Cases

W and Re Z (EU Settled Status for Looked After Children) [2021] EWHC 783 (Fam).

This case concerns applications to be made under the EUSS on behalf of children in care, where the parents oppose to the making of such applications or to obtaining ID documents for the purpose of making an application under the EUSS; or the parents whereabouts are unknown. In these cases the Court held that the local authority will ordinarily be entitled to proceed under the power conferred upon it by section 33(3) of the Children Act 1989 and prior approval of the court is not required.

The Court held “ where applications under the EUSS must be made before the deadline of 30 June 2021, it is essential that all local authorities understand and discharge the obligations towards eligible children in this regard in accordance with the law and guidance detailed in this judgment, so as to ensure that the entitlement of those children to remain in this jurisdiction, forming as it does a cardinal element of their stability, security and safety, is not jeopardised”. It is pertinent to note that the position

is different when applying for citizenship for a child, in which case prior consent of the Court may be required.

In the case of *The 3million Ltd, R (On the Application Of) v Secretary of State for the Home Department* [2021] EWHC 1159 (Admin) (05 May 2021) (which can be found [here](#)) the High Court have refused permission for a judicial review against the Home Office's policy of issuing EU citizens with digital only proof of immigration status.

The previous residence permits issued under the EEA Regulations will no longer be valid from 01 July 2021, and since the digital only policy has not as yet fully taken effect the JR challenge was rejected as being premature. There are of course cases where a card will still be issued in certain circumstances.

It is imperative that all those who hold residence permits under the EEA regulations are aware that these will no longer be valid and that they should ensure an application has been made under the EUSS before the deadline on 30/06/21.

The full judgement can be found [here](#).

Regina (M) v Waltham Forest London Borough Council [2021] EWHC 696 (Admin)

The Claimant entered the UK claiming to be a 14-year-old UASC from Afghanistan. LA found the Claimant to be over the age of 18 years. Claimant's challenge encompassed not only the age assessment completed but also the lawfulness of the decision-making process. The LA subsequently applied for an "unless" order requiring the claimant to consent to and co-operate with the preparation of an expert report on his teeth and his age by a medical practitioner, including attending an appointment for the preparation of a dental panoramic x-ray, with the claim to be struck out in the event of non-compliance.

LA application refused the judicial review was concerned with the lawfulness of the LA's age assessment which led to its decisions, the only evidence to be considered in the judicial review was the evidence which had been before the decision-makers at the relevant time and it was not appropriate for the court to undertake its own age assessment.

R (on the application of GA & Ors) v Secretary of State for the Department [2021] EWHC 868 (Admin)

The Court held that the Home Office was wrong to insist on signed consent for a child's passport from an abusive partner. The Court found that there was no rational evidential basis for concluding that the father had to consent to the passport applications in the case.

London Borough of Barnet v AG & Ors [2021] EWHC 1253 (Fam)

The LA issued care proceedings seeking interim care orders following concerns for the three children of a diplomat. The Judge concluded that although the treatment experienced by the children met the section 38 threshold, he was unable to make the interim orders sought since the parents enjoyed diplomatic immunity from civil proceedings. An application for declaration of incompatibility with the European Convention on Human Rights.

The High Court in dismissing the application held that there was no conflict between the European Convention on Human Rights and the Diplomatic Privileges Act 1964/ Vienna Convention.

To access, click [here](#).

Law Update

Permission to work for asylum seekers

Please note that the Home Office has updated its right to work and volunteering guidance for asylum seekers which can be found [here](#).

The contact details for such applications have been updated. Please note that applications should now be sent to either:

Asylum Casework Teams

Asylum seekers awaiting an initial decision on their claim should submit any request for permission to work via email to AomPTW@homeoffice.gov.uk or by post to: Permission to Work Team Asylum Operations Department 139, The Capital Old Hall Street Liverpool, L3 9PP.

Refused Case Management

Applications for permission to work from failed asylum seekers who have outstanding further submissions are dealt with by Refused Case Management and should be sent via email to RCMPTW@homeoffice.gov.uk or by post to: Permission to Work Team Administrative Unit Level 7, The Capital New Hall Place Liverpool, L3 9PP. Any queries relating to outstanding further submissions should be emailed to CSUpostteam@homeoffice.gov.uk

There is now a provision for the Home Office to use its discretion in exceptional cases, the guidance states:

“Where the Immigration Rules are not met, it will be justifiable to refuse an application for permission to work unless there are exceptional circumstances raised by the claimant. If caseworkers consider that the circumstances of an application are exceptional they should refer the matter to a technical specialist to review whether the matter should be considered on a discretionary basis (under our residual discretion flowing from Section 3 of the Immigration Act 1971). Such discretion would allow a grant of permission to work, notwithstanding the requirements of the Immigration Rules.

What amounts to exceptional circumstances will depend upon the particular facts of each case. A grant of permission to work on a discretionary basis is expected to be rare and only in exceptional circumstances. In cases involving victims and potential victims of trafficking the primary objectives of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (ECAT) will be a relevant consideration, particularly with regards to their physical, psychological and social recovery. The caseworker should consider all the factual information and evidence submitted ensuring it is fully addressed particularly where a decision has been taken to consider the application on a discretionary basis”.

Coronavirus – Visa Concession Scheme

The Home Office has updated its guidance for UK visa applicants and temporary residents in the UK, to confirm that the COVID Visa Concession Scheme will be available until 30 June 2021: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-uk-visa-applicants-and-temporary-uk-residents>

All applicants are expected to either leave the UK where possible or apply to regularise their status in the UK. If an individual intends to leave the U but has not been able to do so and they have a visa which expires by 30 June 2021 they may request additional time to stay. The above link provides further details of the application process and requirements.

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Jobs

Professional Support Lawyer- Immigration (Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children & Refugees) - Closing Date – Monday 23rd August

This is an exciting opportunity to provide leadership and support to legal advisers and social workers across Derby City Council, Derbyshire County Council, Leicester City Council, Leicestershire County Council, Lincolnshire County Council, North Northamptonshire and West Northamptonshire, Nottingham City Council, Nottinghamshire County Council and Rutland in their management of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) who are care leavers or looked after children, and children and families subject to a NRPF conditions.

For an informal discussion please contact Brein Fisher, Regional Migration Manager, East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership at East Midlands Councils: Brein.Fisher@emcouncils.gov.uk

The closing date for applications is 9.00am on Monday 23rd August 2021 and Interviews will take place virtually week commencing 6th September 2021.

Click [here](#) to access the job description, person specification and application form.

Resettlement Policy Officer (Hong Kong British Nationals Overseas) - Closing Date – Monday 23rd August

This is an exciting opportunity to assist with the co-ordination of the East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership on migration issues including the regional coordination of the Hong Kong British Nationals (Overseas) Scheme. The work involved with this important and high-profile programme will include working with local authorities and voluntary and community sector partners in the delivery of this programme.

For an informal discussion please contact Brein Fisher, Regional Migration Manager, East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership at East Midlands Councils: Brein.Fisher@emcouncils.gov.uk

The closing date for applications is 9.00am on Monday 23rd August 2021 and Interviews will take place virtually week commencing 6th September 2021.

Click [here](#) to access the job description, person specification and application form.

Resettlement Policy Officer (UK Resettlement Scheme) - Closing Date – Monday 23rd August

This is an exciting opportunity to assist with the co-ordination of the East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership on migration issues including the regional coordination of the UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS). The work involved with this important and high-profile programme will include working with local authorities to encourage participation, coordinating arrivals and supporting integration.

For an informal discussion please contact Brein Fisher, Regional Migration Manager, East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership at East Midlands Councils: Brein.Fisher@emcouncils.gov.uk

The closing date for applications is 9.00am on Monday 23rd August 2021 and Interviews will take place virtually week commencing 6th September 2021.

Click [here](#) to access the job description, person specification and application form.

Business Support Officers – 2 posts (East Midlands Councils) - Closing Date – Monday 30th August

This role offers variety and involves assisting in the co-ordination and delivery of a range of high-profile government schemes and projects, including the work of the East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership. A key feature of the role is liaising with and developing effective working relationships with local authorities, partners and key stakeholders including central government. Obtaining and communicating information both within and external to the organisation is also important.

For an informal discussion please contact Brein Fisher, Regional Migration Manager, East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership at East Midlands Councils: Brein.Fisher@emcouncils.gov.uk

The closing date for applications is Monday 30th August 2021. Interviews are scheduled to take place virtually week commencing 13th September 2021.

Click [here](#) to access the job description, person specification and application form.

Afghan Resettlement and Assistance Policy (ARAP) Coordinator - Closing Date – Monday 30th August.

Nottingham Refugee Forum are recruiting a coordinator to support the Afghan Resettlement and Assistance Policy (ARAP) which is a UK government scheme resettling selected Afghan families affiliated with the UK, whose lives are in danger due to the withdrawal of British troops from Afghanistan.

As the ARAP Coordinator, you will be the senior caseworker managing this project, providing line management to the team and holding your own caseload. This role involves providing responsive, professional, user-centred support and advice to people in the ARAP scheme, working with all relevant agencies as required. You will have experience of both line management and offering advice and support to refugees.

Further details, including a job description and person specification, can be found [here](#).

To apply for this post, please send a completed application form and monitoring form to recruitment@nottsrefugeeforum.org.uk by midnight, Monday 30 August 2021

Funding

Hong Kong BN(O) Visa Regional VCSE Funding

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) have announced Hong Kong BN(O) funding for voluntary and community sectors. The purpose of the funding is to enable VCSE organisations and groups in developing local projects which will support the integration of Hong Kong BN(O) visa holders and their families into their local communities.

The key aims of the funding is to assist Hong Kong BN(O) visa holders in accessing statutory services, signposting to support services, and supporting integration into the local community. Each region has been allocated a proportion of a £1.4m funding envelope based on the estimated numbers expected to settle in the East Midlands. The region has been allocated £90,000. Successful bids will be expected to run between October 2021 until March 2022.

The deadline for applications is Wednesday 1st September. Applications for the East Midlands will need to be submitted to brein.fisher@emcouncils.gov.uk.

You can find the application form, as well as the full details [here](#).

The MHCLG is running two events for VCSE organisations on 10 and 11 August to talk about the grant schemes in more detail. Those interested in attending can register via [Eventbrite](#).

National Lottery Community Fund

This programme offers a larger amount of funding for projects that last up to five years and will fund projects that work with their community that are 'people led', including projects that bring people together and build strong relationships in and across communities, improve the places and spaces that matter to communities, and projects that can help more people to reach their potential, by supporting them at the earliest possible stage. This includes projects in relation to refugee and asylum seekers communities.

For more information on the funding, and how to apply, click [here](#).

Comic Relief Ministry of Justice Specialist Fund

England wide Organisations supporting survivors / victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence, who are led by / with and for communities facing racial inequality, disabled people or LGBTQ+ communities are able to apply for £5000 - £70,000. Funds will support costs, including hardware and software, which improve digital and remote capacity, provide continuity in support, and enhance future sustainability. Alongside funding, successful applicants will receive digital and technical coaching and expertise from a support partner.

For further information and application details please visit: Ministry of Justice Specialist Fund | Comic Relief Deadlines: Applications close on Tuesday 20th July. To find out more, [click here](#).

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[Training/ Events](#)

Due to COVID-19, East Midlands Councils has decided to postpone all face to face training and events at this time. However, over the last few months, training has been adapted to be delivered virtually. Please see below the online training that has been held, as well as upcoming training, which can also all be accessed online [here](#).

For more information on training, please email Hannah.Smith@emcouncils.gov.uk

Online Training /Webinar

Tackling Modern Slavery in UK Businesses (from 11th August onwards, Online)

Stronger Together offers training solutions to assist businesses 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. 4-hour live interactive training split into two halves with a lunch break in between. This is an interactive training including the opportunity to ask our expert trainers questions.

For details and to book, click [here](#).

IOM UK Syria Information Session (8th & 9th September, Online)

This two-day session will cover the history and background of Syria, Syrian cultural norms and practices, the services Syrians may be used to and their expectations around accessing those services, and the conditions Syrian refugees may face in the region before coming to the UK. Following part 1 of this session, there may be some brief reading and/or activity to prepare for part 2. This session will be participatory and rely heavily on participant engagement through case studies and discussion, therefore we highly encourage participants to prepare to have their cameras on during the session.

To find out more, or to book, click [here](#).

Social services' support for families with no recourse to public funds (13th September, Online)

A session for social workers, NRPF caseworks, managers and local authority legal officers by NRPF Network is being held on the 10th June. This session will cover what NRPF is and what to consider when undertaking an assessment including a human rights assessment and when it is needed.

To find out more, click [here](#).

When and how to undertake a human rights assessment (care leavers)(16th September, Online)

NRPF Network are also hosting a session on how to undertake human rights assessments. It is recommended that delegates have prior knowledge of immigration terminology and possible immigration outcomes for a former looked after Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Child (UASC) and for other migrant children.

For more information on the course, or to book, click [here](#).

Social services' support for adults with no recourse to public funds (22nd September, Online)

NRPF Network are also holding a training session on social services support for adults with no recourse to public funds. This session will allow you to develop knowledge and skills to effectively respond to requests for care and support, including accommodation and financial assistance, made by adults who are unable to access benefits and housing due to their immigration status.

For more information on the course, or to book, click [here](#).

IOM UK Iraq Information Session (28th & 29th September, Online)

This session will cover the history and background of Iraq, Iraqi cultural norms and practices, the services Iraqis may be used to and their expectations around accessing those services, and the conditions Iraqi refugees may face in the region before coming to the UK. This session will be participatory and rely heavily on participant engagement through case studies and discussion, therefore we highly encourage participants to prepare to have their cameras on during the session.

To find out more, or to book, click [here](#).

ECPAT UK's An Overview of Child Trafficking, Exploitation and Modern Slavery (6th & 7th October, 9:30-1, Online)

This online training course will give you an overview of child trafficking, exploitation and modern slavery in the UK, support you to identify cases of child exploitation and build your understanding of the challenges victims face.

This course will provide participants with updated knowledge and skills to improve support for children. It is ideal for a broad range of professionals working in any services working with children vulnerable to trafficking and exploitation.

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

Further training/ event details

If you are interested in delivering a training session, signing up to a course, or about any of the training/ events we have previously held, please contact Hannah Smith, EMSMP Programme Officer. Hannah.smith@emcouncils.gov.uk

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Future East Midlands SMP Briefings

The next Strategic Migration Partnership Briefing will be available in October 2021 which will cover updates from Q2 of year ending 2021/22 covering the months of July, August, and September.

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:

Hannah Smith, Programme Officer, East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership.

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