

East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership Briefing

January – March 2021

Quarter 4

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

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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

New Immigration Plan

The Government introduced its policy statement highlighting its new plan for immigration. The policy statement can be found [here](#). The Government is initiating a consultation and engagement process which will commence from 24 March. The Government states that “the process will be delivered in partnership with an insight and strategy firm, in line with established principles, as well as taking into account any other relevant statutory duties. As part of this process, we want to listen to a wide range of views from stakeholders and sectors, as well as members of the public”. The consultation process will be for 6 weeks.

To take part in this consultation please click [here](#).

Hong Kong BN(O)

As of 19 March 2021, approximately 27,000 BN(O) status holders and their family members have applied for a visa since January – this number reflects applications rather than visa holders. More information will be released on how many visas have been granted in the next quarterly migration statistics release on 27 May. The number of applications is based on internal Home Office management data.

Councils in England, who are already playing a key role to ensure BN(O) status holders are warmly welcomed and supported, will benefit from £30.7 million to provide targeted support for new arrivals, covering additional English language and support with housing costs for those who need it. As the

areas of support covered by these funds are both devolved policies, £5.8 million will be provided to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to deliver similar activity.

The 12 welcome hubs will be delivered through the existing Strategic Migration Partnerships, and in England will work with local authorities, voluntary community and social enterprises. The 12 hubs will work with local authorities and VCSE groups to provide face-to-face support where needed.

A further £5 million will be used to establish 12 virtual welcome hubs across every region in England, and in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, to co-ordinate support and give practical advice and assistance in applying for school places, registering with GPs and even setting up businesses.

The full announcement 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

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.

A joint consultation by the Home Office and Department for Education on proposals for a new operational approach to the NTS closed on 30th September, with responses submitted by individual East Midlands local authorities and the East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership on behalf of the region. There is currently no timeframe for the conclusions of the consultation to be announced.

The South Coast

The situation along the south coast, and in Kent and Portsmouth 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 and Portsmouth City Council announced that they were unable to accept any further new arrivals into care. Since then, unaccompanied children arriving in Kent and Portsmouth stayed at the ports while alternative arrangements are sought. Recently, both councils have resumed accepting unaccompanied children newly arrived into care. 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 and Portsmouth, with the response ongoing.

If you would be interested in finding out more about the Scheme, please contact

Matthew.Clarke@emcouncils.gov.uk

Right to Remains' Asylum Guide - The Stages of a Young Person's Asylum Journey

This guide looks at the main stages of the asylum process that young people (unaccompanied children) seeking asylum in the UK go through. The resource explains the major stages of the legal and support process, with innovative problem cards that “flip over” to reveal more information and actions people can take.

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

The Vulnerable Persons Resettlement (VPR) Scheme

Statistics

The Vulnerable Person Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) accounted for over 80% (662) of those resettled in the UK in 2020. Since the government announced the expansion of the scheme on 7th September 2015, including the target of resettling an additional 20,000 refugees under the scheme by 2020, 19,776 refugees have been resettled in the UK (99% of the 20,000 target) and there are plans to bring the final arrivals under the Vulnerable Person Resettlement Scheme in early 2021.

A further 79 people were resettled under the Vulnerable Children Resettlement Scheme (VCRS) in 2020, bringing the total to 1,826 since the scheme began in 2016.

In the East Midlands, 930 refugees have been resettled through both the VPRS and the VCRS.

Of those resettled under the VPRS and VCRS in 2020, 25 refugees were resettled in the UK through the Community Sponsorship scheme. Since the scheme began in July 2016, 449 refugees have been resettled by community sponsor groups.

There was no resettlement during the second and third quarters of 2020. Resettlement activity recommenced in December 2020, although only eight refugees were resettled that month.

Once 20,000 VPRS refugees have been resettled, the UK has announced plans to resettle around 5,000 of the world's most vulnerable refugees in the first year of operation of a new resettlement scheme. The new resettlement scheme will consolidate the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme, the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme and the Gateway Protection Programme into one global scheme.

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.

Community Sponsorship

British Red Cross VOICES network report into Community Sponsorship

VOICES network hosted workshops with adults who arrived in the UK through Community Sponsorship. Then, based on these workshops, the VOICES network made recommendations for Reset's work which they set out in a report. These recommendations included continuing to work with the British Red Cross and explore induction packages.

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

Community Sponsorship today

The Covid-19 pandemic has been a challenge for Community Sponsorship in the UK. In March 2020, the Government halted refugee resettlement.

However, RESET are still working on ways that individuals can get involved including starting up a group, joining a group, funding a group for when refugee resettlement commences,

They have recently just started a campaign 'Communities for Refugees' as the result of COVID-19 meant that no refugees were resettled into the UK since March 2020. The campaign is to communities to sponsor a refugee family.

Click [here](#) to read more.

Further details of Community Sponsorships

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

English for Speakers of other Languages (ESOL)

Opportunity for resettled refugees and former asylum seekers to teach ESOL

Since the start of 2020, East Midlands Councils have been working with Flying Cows to enable resettled refugees and former asylum seekers within the East Midlands to teach English to non-native English speakers.

There are now three courses that are available to the East Midlands region, which could be funded by East Midlands Councils. Below are further details:

- Certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL)
- Pre Community TESOL
- Community TESOL

Further details about these courses and eligibility for these courses, please click [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

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Migration

Statistics

The government's [latest immigration statistics](#) (year ending December 2020) 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 9,936 people (including dependants) in 2020. This figure is around half (48%) of the number in 2019, and the lowest level since 2014. The lower numbers of people given protection in the latest year is due to fewer initial decisions being made on asylum applications (14,365 decisions in 2020 compared with 20,766 in 2019), as well as the pause to resettlement activity after March 2020, both a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- 7,546 people granted asylum, down 40% compared with the previous year, with the top nationalities receiving grants being Iranian (1,361), Eritrean (826), Sudanese (817), and Afghan (554) nationals
- 1,012 people granted humanitarian protection, down 18%; over half of these (54%) were granted to Libyan nationals; there was a notable increase in grants awarded to El Salvadorian nationals (168 up from 40), following an increase in applications since 2018
- 555 people granted alternative forms of leave following an application for asylum, down 57%
- 823 people granted protection through resettlement schemes, 85% fewer than in the previous year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic preventing resettlement activity between March-December 2020

Additionally, 6,066 Family reunion visas were issued to partners and children of those previously granted asylum or humanitarian protection in the UK, 6% fewer than the previous year.

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking

National Referral Mechanism Statistics

In 2020, 10,613 potential victims of modern slavery were referred to the NRM; a similar number to 2019. The plateau in referral numbers is primarily thought to result from the COVID-19 pandemic and associated restrictions.

Of these, 63% (6,716) claimed that the exploitation occurred in the UK only, whilst 26% (2,722) claimed that the exploitation took place overseas only.

Just under half of referrals (48%; 5,087) were for individuals who claimed they were exploited as adults, whilst 47% (4,946) were for individuals who claimed they were exploited as children.

The most common type of exploitation for adults was labour exploitation and for minors was criminal exploitation.

Potential victims from the UK, Albania and Vietnam were the three most common nationalities to be referred to the NRM.

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

Translated material on Anti slavery welcome guides for young migrants

International Organization of Migration, Croydon and Barnardo's have produced leaflets and guidance to help newly arriving children settle and feel safe. These are available in [English](#), [Albanian](#), [Amharic](#), [Arabic](#), [Dari](#), [Pashto](#), [Tigrinya](#), [Vietnamese](#) and can be used and shared widely.

Breaking County Lines – A Toolkit of awareness raising and practical action

The Clewer Initiative have recently designed a resource to enable churches and communities to understand and raise awareness of the scale of the problem and spot the signs of its presence. It also looks at ways of building resilience in communities with an emphasis on the protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults. Breaking County Lines is written in four modules including digital stories based on personal experience, group activities, supporting information and biblical reflections.

The modules cover: Understanding County Lines; Detection of County Lines; Protecting Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults; and Building Resilience.

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

Toolkit for small and medium-sized enterprises to mitigate their risk of exploitation

Anti-slavery organisations Shiva Foundation and STOP THE TRAFFIK have launched a free toolkit for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The toolkit will be the first of its kind, being both free and specifically created for SMEs in consultation with business experts. Launched at a free webinar for SMEs and advisory groups, the toolkit includes key features such as a simple risk self-assessment, practical steps to protect employees, and clear guidance on how to report modern slavery concerns.

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

County Lines exploitation: applying All Our Health

This guide is part of '[All Our Health](#)', a resource which helps health professionals prevent ill health and promote wellbeing as part of their everyday practice. The information within this guide will help front-line health and care professionals use their trusted relationships with patients, families and communities to improve their mental health and wellbeing.

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

Modern Slavery Statement Registry

The Home Office has launched a modern slavery statement registry online, to provide a platform for organisations to share the positive steps they have taken to tackle and prevent modern slavery. The registry will enhance transparency and accessibility, by bringing modern slavery statements together in one place and will make it easier to find and compare them.

The article and details on how businesses and organisations can compile and submit statements can be found [here](#).

EU Settlement Scheme

Statistics

As of 28th February 2021, there has been over 5 million applications been made to the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS), with four months to go before the 30 June 2021 deadline.

The figures show that, up to the end of November 2020:

- 5.18 million applications were received.
- 4.81 million applications have been concluded.
- Across the UK, 4,670,700 applications were received from England, 257,500 applications from Scotland, 85,900 applications from Wales and 83,800 received from Northern Ireland.

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

Windrush Compensation Scheme

The Home Secretary made an announcement in the House on 14 December 2020 on the improvements to the Windrush Compensation Scheme. Details of this can be found in the factsheet [here](#).

There has also been an announcement on a Windrush Compensation Scheme. Details of this can be found in the [Funding](#) section within this briefing.

No Recourse to Public Funds

Supporting European Economic Area (EEA) nationals who are destitute or at risk of homelessness – Guide for Local Authorities

This factsheet provides information about the immigration requirements that now apply to EEA nationals and their family members, and how these affect entitlement to benefits, housing assistance, and social services' support. It also includes information about the EU Settlement Scheme to help local authorities identify and assist residents who have not yet applied. This information updates the

NRPF practice guidance with regards to providing social services' support to EEA national adults with care needs or families.

The guidance highlights that the “*Withholding and Withdrawal of Support (Travel Assistance and Temporary Accommodation) Regulations 2002* will no longer provide local authorities with the power to purchase travel tickets for EEA nationals returning to their country of origin or provide timebound interim accommodation pending a return. From 1 January 2021, the Home Office may be able to assist an EEA national with a voluntary return if they are without status or leave in the UK”.

To access click [here](#).

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[EMSMP Immigration Solicitor Update](#)

Immigration Update

New Graduate Route

The new Graduate route will open for applications on 01 July 2021. The Home Office announcement states that the Graduate route will be available to international students who have completed a degree at undergraduate level or above at a Higher Education Provider with a track record of compliance, and who have valid Tier 4 or Student permission at the time of application.

Successful applicants on this route at bachelor's or master's level will be able to stay in the UK and work, or look for work, at any skill level for two years. Doctoral students will be able to stay for three years.

Graduates will be able to apply to the Skilled Worker route from within the UK, once they have found a suitable job.

The route does not count towards settlement – however Graduates will be able to apply to other routes at the end of their 2-3 year stay, for example the Skilled Worker, Global Talent or Innovator routes.

Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner Campaign

The OISC has begun an awareness campaign on the importance of using registered Immigration Advisers and what to do if those who have sought support believe they have received poor or illegal advice.

They have produced a [video](#) which is a useful guide on how to use our Adviser Finder platform, although specifically made for people thinking about applying under the EUSS, to share via your websites or social media pages.

Secondly, a series of posters on the themes of “Have concerns re immigration advice received?” and “Use a registered Immigration Adviser” is available for printing and sharing.

These posters are available in a variety of languages including Chinese, Farsi, Polish and Urdu. Visit [here](#) for more details.

Immigration Cases

R (on the application of SM) v Lord Chancellor [2021] EWHC 418 (Admin).

The High Court found that the lack of access to legal aid advice by immigration detainees held in prison to an extent equivalent to that available to immigration detainees held in Immigration Removal Centres under the Detained Duty Advice Scheme, was in breach of Article 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) read together with Articles 2, 3, 5 and 8.

R (Project for the Registration of Children as British Citizens) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2021] WLR(D) 107

Court of Appeal upheld the High Court's ruling that the Secretary of State breached its duty to have regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children who are in the UK, when the fees for British citizenship were set. The fees are presently set at £1,012. This duty arises out of section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009.

Interestingly, the Home Office immigration and nationality fees from 06 April 2021, states that the fees for registration applications on behalf of children will remain at £1,012.

Therefore, certainly for now this fee will be payable for such applications.

It is also worth a mention that there have been no changes to the fees for all other immigration and citizenship applications. Details of the fees can be found at [here](#).

Re Omar Mahmud (unreported, FRI3390)

The Applicant's claim for asylum was refused by the Home Office and the First-tier tribunal. Following this refusal the Applicant made numerous further submissions, which were rejected by the Home Office. In between the rejection of the Appellant's sixth and seventh set of submissions the Home Office withdrew the Applicant's financial support and accommodation on the grounds that the Appellant could avoid destitution by returning to his country of origin. The Applicant became street homeless.

The High Court of Northern Ireland found that the Home Office breached the human rights of the Applicant by evicting him while his eighth attempt to reopen his asylum claim was still pending.

FA (Sudan), R (On the Application Of) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2021] EWCA Civ 59

The Court of Appeal accepted that the Destitution Domestic Violence Concession (DDVC) does distinguish between those who have a visa as the spouse or partner of a person and those who do not. However, it does not differentiate between men and women and consequently no direct discrimination on the grounds of sex.

Fratila and Tanase v SSWP & AIRE Centre [2020] EWCA Civ 1741

In December 2020, the Court of Appeal found that the exclusion of pre-settled status as a sufficient right to reside amounted to unlawful discrimination on the grounds of nationality. The legal effect of the decision of the court was stayed until 26 February 2021.

On 22 February 2021, the Supreme Court granted permission to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to appeal the decision of the Court of Appeal and ordered that the Court of Appeal's stay of execution is extended beyond the 26 February 2021 and until the appeal is finally determined. Consequently, the decision of the Court of Appeal does not as yet have legal effect.

Ncube v Brighton and Hove City Council [2021] EWHC 578 (Admin)

The High Court in the case of *Ncube v Brighton and Hove City Council* stated that councils can lawfully provide emergency accommodation to people not usually eligible for homelessness assistance, who have been forced to sleep rough during the pandemic. A summary of the case provided by Garden Court Chambers can be found [here](#). The link also contains a link to the full judgement.

The central issue of the case was whether the Claimant's status as a person within Sch. 3, para 7, Nationality Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 and s.185 Housing Act 1996 precludes him from being accommodated under the Council's COVID-19 accommodation policy. The local authority in relying on s.185 argued that it did not have power to offer the claimant housing assistance.

In reply Mr Justice Freedman stated "In my judgment, the question whether this is correct is of public importance. Its effect would be that local authorities are unable to accommodate persons subject to a NRPF condition. If correct, this would affect their ability to respond to the "Everyone In" scheme or any successor initiative. It might also affect the ability to protect the human rights of person who is at risk of destitution and be potentially in breach of Article 3 of the European Convention of Human Rights".

Mr Justice Freedman went on to find that: "subject to finalising the terms in an order, and any further submissions as to the precise terms of the declaration in order to reflect this judgment, the Court has in mind the following:

- It is declared as regards the provision of temporary accommodation pursuant to the "Everyone In" scheme or a successor initiative to street homeless persons in order to save lives alleviating the effect of the Covid-19 pandemic:
- (a) the Defendant has powers under s.138 Local Government Act 1972 in the context of an emergency involving danger to life affecting the street homeless, to take action to provide accommodation or secure assistance for them to avert, alleviate or eradicate the effect of Covid-19;
- (b) the duty under s.2B National Health Service Act 2006 is capable of permitting the provision of temporary accommodation by the Defendant as a step for improving the health of the people in the area; notwithstanding that some of the recipients may be persons who are

ineligible for assistance under s.185 Housing Act 1996, provided that the foregoing is not used to circumvent the restrictions of s.185 Housing Act 1996 or schedule 3 to the Nationality and Immigration Act 2002”.

It was additionally found that the Localism Act 2011 does not give rise to a free-standing power to accommodate.

G (Respondent) v G (Appellant)

The case of [G \(Respondent\) v G \(Appellant\)](#) concerned the interplay between the Hague Convention and the Refugee Convention. The child was named as a dependent upon her mother’s application for asylum.

The mother appealed to the Supreme Court on three grounds:

1. Her asylum application could also be understood to be an asylum application by G, so a return order should not be implemented until the asylum application had been determined.
2. High Court should not make a return order where there is a pending asylum claim.
3. The guidance as to the High Court being slow to stay a Hague Convention application was incorrect.

The Supreme Court allowed the appeal on the first ground and grounds 2 and 3 were dismissed. In allowing the appeal in part the Supreme Court stated that an asylum application which lists a child as a dependent is also an application by that child if it can be objectively understood as to be so. Usually, an adult’s grounds for fearing persecution are likely to apply to the child, an omission by a child to make an application in their own right cannot be determinative. A return order under the Hague Convention cannot be implemented until the asylum application is determined, if that application can objectively be understood to be an application on behalf of G. Furthermore, an asylum claim is not determined until conclusion of any appeal, and consequently any pending in country appeal bars implementation of a return order.

In relation to grounds 2 and 3, it was held that both conventions must operate hand in hand in accordance with the obligations of expedition and priority imposed for the benefit of children under the Hague convention. The High Court should be slow to stay Hague Convention proceedings and there is no reason why a return order cannot be made as opposed to being implemented.

The case was remitted to the High court for determination of the Hague Convention proceedings considering judgement.

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Publications

First Steps to Safety? The role of reception centres in supporting people out of exploitation - British Red Cross

British Red Cross have published a new report, First Steps to Safety? The role of reception centres in supporting people out of exploitation which focuses on the experiences of people removed from exploitation and asks whether they are able to get the immediate advice and support they need.

The report found that while reception centres did offer people immediate respite, the time pressure, conflicting priorities, and limited support options for survivors meant that they did not offer people routes to safety.

To read more or to access the report, click [here](#).

Impact of the pandemic on the criminal justice system – Criminal Justice Joint Inspection

This report provides a cross-system view of how the criminal justice system reacted in the immediate aftermath of the first national Covid-19 lockdown (23 March to 10 May 2020), and of how the system has managed since. The report highlights risks and innovative practice, and focuses in detail on the greatest risk facing the criminal justice system as it continues to respond to and recover from the pandemic.

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

Study of children joining family in England under the Dublin III Regulation

The Department for Education commissioned IFF Research to conduct quantitative and qualitative research into experiences of the Dublin III Regulation among local authorities, children and young people, and their families. The aim of this research was to develop a clear picture of the needs and experiences of these children and the local authorities. The findings of this research will be taken into account in the development of any future policy in this area where appropriate. It also meets the commitments outlined in the “Safeguarding Strategy for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking and Refugee Children”.

To read the full report, click [here](#).

Inspection Report Published: An inspection of the work of Border Force, Immigration Enforcement, and UK Visas and Immigration to identify, investigate, disrupt and prosecute perpetrators of modern slavery and human trafficking

The report makes three recommendations which stress the importance of creating a clearer, more coherent set of roles, responsibilities and objectives for the Home Office Border, Immigration and Citizenship System’s response to modern slavery and human trafficking.

- Review the roles and responsibilities of Border Force, Immigration Enforcement and UK Visas and Immigration business areas and functions in relation to each strand (the ‘4 Ps’) of ‘Modern Slavery Strategy’. The review should be led by the Director General Serious Organised Crime Group (SOCG) and the Modern Slavery Unit (MSU), and the results

presented to the BICS Board for sign off and to the Home Office Executive Board for information, then published on Horizon and shared, as appropriate, with partner agencies.

- In support of the updated statement of 'Modern Slavery Strategy' roles and responsibilities across BICS: produce BICS-specific guidance in relation to the identification, reporting and pursuit of perpetrators of modern slavery and human trafficking (MSHT) that complements 'Modern Slavery Act 2015 – Statutory Guidance for England and Wales', revising forms, work and information flows, points of contact, advice and expertise, etc. as necessary conduct a skills gap analysis to identify where business areas and staff are not equipped to fulfil the MSHT 'Pursue' roles and responsibilities assigned to them and produce an improvement plan, incorporating a training plan, to bring them up to speed as quickly as possible.
- Create a cross-BICS/SOCG governance board to oversee the Home Office input to the 'Pursue' strand of the 'Modern Slavery Strategy'. Membership should be at Director/Deputy Director level and the board should be accountable to Director General SOCG. Its responsibilities should include: agreeing a performance/delivery plan that takes full account of the priorities and taskings of the National Crime Agency Modern Slavery Threat Group (MSTG) holding BICS/SOCG business areas to account for their performance producing monthly performance reports for the BICS Board and 'headlines' for the Home Office Executive Committee

Full report can be accessed [here](#).

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[Jobs](#)

Business Support Officer Role at East Midlands Councils

East Midlands Councils has a vacancy for a Business Support Officer role, the role offers variety and involves administration, diary management, co-ordinating and supporting meetings, events and projects.

For further details and to access the application form, please visit our website [here](#). The closing date for applications is midnight of Thursday 15th April 2021. Interviews are scheduled to take place on Tuesday 27th April.

Independent Child Trafficking Guardian

Independent Child Trafficking Guardianship Service (ICTG Service) are expanding and developing in 2021/2022 and are pleased to announce some exciting opportunities to join a passionate and experienced national team. Guardians work in the best interests of children to be an independent source of advice for children who have been trafficked, to speak up on their behalf and help them orientate around social welfare, immigration and criminal justice systems.

Posts available cover Midlands, London, South and North. For further details, click [here](#).

Funding

Coalfields Recovery and Resilience Fund – East Midlands

Grants of £10,000 are being made available through the Coalfields Regeneration Trust to support organisations who are delivering support services to respond to current issues and challenges in local coalfield communities. The fund is available across areas in the UK but the guidance on which wards are available in the East Midlands can be found [here](#).

Examples of the activities and services the programme is looking to fund:

- direct advice, guidance and support to people who are in crisis and/or experiencing financial hardship.
- supporting people who are experiencing poor mental health.
- supporting vulnerable people who are experiencing health inequalities, loneliness and/or social isolation
- supporting people experiencing domestic violence/sexual abuse.
- supporting local community activity, including volunteering, and co-ordination of services.

To find out more information on the fund or how to apply, click [here](#).

Windrush Community Fund

The £500,000 Windrush Community Fund is also now open for applications. The Community Fund will support community and grassroots organisations to run outreach and promotional activity to raise awareness of the Windrush Scheme and Windrush Compensation Scheme. The Community Fund sub-group of the Cross-Government Working Group played a large role in designing the Fund and the Home Office has thanked them in particular for all of their support, guidance and work to design the Fund. The Home Office Windrush Team shall be working with Voice4Change England, who will be administering the Community Fund, the full information including the application form and guidance for applicants is available [here](#). A moving graphic can be accessed [here](#).

The Home Office currently funds Citizens Advice to provide expert and independent advice to those who request support applying for compensation. On the 14 December it was announced that We Are Digital will provide this service from the first quarter of 2021. We Are Digital work with various partners including Citizens Advice. Their network of community-based centres also includes libraries, town halls, church groups, mosques, training providers and other community groups. Until We are Digital commence their service, Citizens Advice will continue to provide support.

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](#).

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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 21st April, 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](#).

ECPAT UK's Child Criminal Exploitation and Trafficking (21st & 22nd April, 9:30-1, Online)

This online course focuses on the specific issue of child criminal exploitation (CCE) in the UK. Learners will gain an understanding of the causes and dynamics of forced criminality among children in the UK and will build your capacity to identify its various forms and respond in line with best practice.

This course is ideal for safeguarding, youth justice and legal practitioners who encounter children vulnerable to CCE in their work as it will provide participants with updated knowledge and skills to improve support for children.

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

Introduction to social services support for people with no recourse to public funds (6th May 2021, Online)

NRPF Network are hosting an introductory course for people who have little or no prior knowledge the support options for people with no recourse to public funds and who may need to make referrals to social services. The course will outline the UK Immigration System and how immigration status affects entitlements to services as well as support for asylum seekers and victims of modern slavery and good practice.

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

When and how to undertake a human rights assessment (care leavers) (13th May 2021, 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 families with no recourse to public funds (10th June 2021, 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](#).

The rights and entitlements of young refugees and unaccompanied asylum seeking children (16th June 2021, Online)

Coram Children Legal Centre have a comprehensive, one-day training course covers law, policy and processes affecting 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, age assessment and care and support including transition at 18 and 21.

To find out more, or 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 after June 2021 which will cover Q1 of year ending 2021/22.

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.

Hannah.Smith@emcouncils.gov.uk