

## East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership Briefing

June 2020

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 newly refreshed [website](#) and dedicated [Twitter account](#) 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

Due to the ever-changing situation of COVID-19, EMSMP have set up a webpage which contains government updates, materials, and guidance on areas within migration, including Asylum, ESOL, VPRS, UASC and more. This will be updated on a daily basis in line with new announcements and resources.

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

### **Statistics relating to Covid-19 and the immigration system, May 2020**

The information in [this report](#) is designed to give an overview of the key trends affecting the UK immigration system, following the outbreak of COVID-19 in the UK in March and April 2020. This is a one-off release derived from Home Office management information.

- The total number of visa applications began to fall in March 2020, with around 129,000 applications, less than half the number in March 2019 (281,000).
- Applications for the EU Settlement Scheme have remained open however there were 73,000 applications concluded in April 2020, 51% lower than in March 2020.
- In the four weeks prior to lockdown, there were around 2,500 applications, however in the first four weeks of lockdown there were less than 800, a fall of 69%.
- At the start of May 2020, there were 313 people detained in the immigration detention facilities. This compares to 1,278 at the end of December 2019 and 555 at the end of March 2020.

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## Asylum Seekers and Refugees

### **Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)**

#### **The UASC National Transfer Scheme (NTS)**

The [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 accepting transfers, although the Scheme is effectively paused currently. Participation in the scheme remains voluntary.

### **Funding uplift announced for councils caring for children seeking asylum**

On 8th June 2020, the Minister for Immigration Compliance, Chris Philp announced an uplift in the funding for councils caring for unaccompanied asylum seeking children. The new rate (£240 per person per week) replaces the previous rates of £150 and £200 per week, representing a 20-60% increase. There will also be a targeted 25% uplift in funding for local authorities across the UK who are currently looking after the highest numbers of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children when compared to their child population. They will receive a tariff of £143 per child per night instead of the standard rate of £114 per child per night.

Click [here](#) to read the full announcement.

If you would be interested in finding out more about the Scheme, please contact [Matthew.Clarke@emcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:Matthew.Clarke@emcouncils.gov.uk)

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

### **Joint IOM and UNHCR Resettlement Announcement**

A joint IOM and UNHCR [statement was made](#) on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2020 regarding the commencement of refugee resettlement after the effects of the Coronavirus pandemic.

While this is good news, this is just a first step and does not mean that arrivals in the UK can restart yet. Arrivals into the UK continues to depend on a number of COVID-19 related factors including: the restarting of flights from refugee hosting countries; the lifting of restrictions imposed by the governments of those countries and in the UK; the reopening of the UK's visa application centres; the capacity of local authorities and sponsors to receive refugees; and appropriate public health measures being in place to protect refugees and communities.

Any further announcements will be made through our regular Migration Bulletin update and social media platforms.

Should you have any questions relating to the announcement or resettlement in general, please contact Brein Fisher at [brein.fisher@emcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:brein.fisher@emcouncils.gov.uk)

### **Statistics**

The Vulnerable Person Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) accounted for over three-quarters (4,030) of those resettled in the UK in year ending March 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, 19,768 refugees have been resettled in the UK. In addition, 239 refugees were resettled prior to this, and do not count towards the 20,000 target.

A further 416 people were resettled under the Vulnerable Children Resettlement Scheme (VCRS) in year ending March 2020, bringing the total to 1,826 since the scheme began in 2016.

Of those resettled under the VPRS and VCRS in the year ending March 2020, 168 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.

Up until 31st March 2020, the East Midlands have resettled 930 through the VPRS scheme.

From 2020, once the 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. 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).

## **Community Sponsorship**

### **Planning your application during COVID-19**

During these extraordinary times, RESET know that Community Sponsorship Groups will be thinking through their plans to welcome refugees. They have set up an online meeting on a weekly basis, which is geared toward Groups who are working through the application process, and will provide an opportunity to share with partner's current updates and help partners to share their thoughts, concerns and ideas.

For information on when the next meeting is, click [here](#).

### **RESET's Toolkit for Local Authorities**

As Community Sponsorship in the UK enters its fifth year, there is an increasing number of experiences to share. This toolkit has been designed to share some of the established practice on giving consent as well as to help Local Authorities decide what is needed to be done when providing consent for Community Sponsorship Groups in your area.

This toolkit is designed to guide local authorities through the consent process, to share best practice and to provide support that is needed when you're approached by Community Sponsorship Groups in your community.

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

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

## **English for Speakers of other Languages (ESOL)**

### **Community TESOL**

The Flying Cows Online Community CertTESOL course in association with Trinity College, London and Language Point Teacher Education, has been designed in response to the Covid-19 pandemic for people who want to teach English to non-native English speakers at home or overseas. The course is 100% online so learners can stay safe while they study as well as be accessed nationally. The Trinity CertTESOL is a level 5, Ofqual regulated qualification which is accepted by education authorities, immigration departments and visa offices worldwide as a benchmark qualification in the industry. East Midlands Councils are working with Flying Cows to enable refugees within the East Midlands to access this course.

If your council would be interested in finding out more about Community TESOL in the region, please contact [Hannah.Smith@emcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:Hannah.Smith@emcouncils.gov.uk)

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## **Migration**

### **Statistics**

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

In the year ending March 2020, the UK issued 20,339 grants of asylum, humanitarian protection, alternative forms of leave and resettlement which was 17% higher than the previous year and similar to levels seen in 2003.

- 12,863 grants of asylum, up 40% compared with the previous year, with notable increases in grants to Iranian (up 62% to 2,653), Sudanese (up 87% to 1,657) and Eritrean (up 55% to 1,734) nationals
- 1,482 grants of humanitarian protection, up 24% – over half of these (58%) were granted to Libyan nationals

- 1,026 grants of alternative forms of leave following an application for asylum, down 18%
- 4,968 grants of protection through resettlement schemes, 14% fewer than in the previous year – and three-quarters of which were to Syrian nationals

In addition to those granted asylum, humanitarian protection and alternative forms of leave at initial decision following an asylum application, a further 3,969 had an appeal allowed following an initial refusal of asylum over the same period. This accounted for 44% of the total appeals resolved in the period.

Additionally, 7,482 Family reunion visas were issued to partners and children of those previously granted asylum or humanitarian protection in the UK, 37% more than the previous year.

As part of this release, the Home Office published '[Migration Statistics Quarterly Report](#)' (May 2020) which reported that an estimated total of 642,000 people moved to the UK and 402,000 people left the UK, in the year ending December 2019.

## **Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking**

### **Exploitation of people Experiencing Homelessness in Hotels**

This document has been compiled to share non-sensitive, non-identifiable and non-confidential intelligence that has been received by STOP THE TRAFFIK in relation to current risks of exploitation for the homeless population because of covid-19. The intelligence contains incidents from across the UK which includes exploiters targeting hotels, exploiters within hotels and exploitation risks related to impacted drug supply.

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

### **Digital Safety during COVID-19 for children**

The impact of COVID-19 meant that most individuals were at home for an extended period and were likely to be spending increasing amounts of time online and as the online world became a necessity for many children in accessing school work and which delivered huge benefits, not least in enabling us to stay connected to family and friends during this period. However, there are increasing concerns about the content children are accessing. This document has been put together to help identify what steps can be taken to keep a child safe online, what are the signs that a child is being exploited online, what help is available and lots more.

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

### **Modern Slavery and COVID-19: What to do**

The Home Office have produced a flyer that reiterates this information for First Responders during this period. The flyer can be shared with your networks to ensure that all First Responders are aware of how to best identify potential victims of modern slavery while staying safe during COVID-19 and can be accessed [here](#). They have also put together a flyer for those who are not first responders, which can be accessed [here](#).

This is now also available in 11 different languages, which can be accessed [here](#).

### **Legal case confirms survivors can re-enter the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) after exiting with a positive conclusive ground (CG)**

A recent case has confirmed that survivors of trafficking who have a positive CG and previously left NRM support are entitled to request reinstatement of support where the need arises. It also demonstrates that victims of trafficking with a positive CG who have left NRM support but are still awaiting a decision on their discretionary leave application, are eligible to have NRM support reinstated when they have unmet support needs.

Read about the case [here](#) and helpful FAQs [here](#).

### **Modern Slavery Victim Care Contract (MSVCC)**

The Modern Slavery Victim Care Contract was awarded to The Salvation Army on 29th June 2020. More information can be found [here](#). This contract will provide accommodation, support and outreach support services to adult victims of modern slavery and human trafficking and their dependents in England and Wales. It will ensure the safeguarding and protection of victims, providing flexible support tailored to individual recovery needs to those in the National Referral Mechanism.

There will now be a period of transition whilst the new contract is implemented, to ensure continuity of service for victims with minimal disruption. The new contract will be live in winter 2020/21.

Click [here](#) to access the full report.

### **No Recourse to Public Funds**

#### **NRPF policy amended following legal challenge**

The Home Office has extended the criteria for granting recourse to public funds to people who apply for leave to remain on the family or private life routes, following a legal challenge brought by an eight year old British child in the case of R (W) v The Secretary of State for the Home Department & Anor [2020] EWHC 1299. The Home Office guidance has now been amended to state that: "In all cases where an applicant has been granted leave, or is seeking leave, under the family or private life routes the NRPF condition must be lifted or not imposed if an applicant is destitute or is at risk of imminent destitution without recourse to public funds".

To access the guidance, click [here](#) or to read the full report from NRPF, click [here](#).

### **EU Settlement Scheme**

#### **Statistics**

On 18 June 2020, the Home Office produced statistics on the EU Settlement Scheme up to the end of May 2020.

- Around 76,400 applications were received in the month of May, totalling over 3.6 million (3,612,400) applications altogether.
- The number of applications concluded in May 2020 was 98,800 and of these, 53% were granted settled status and 39% were granted pre-settled status. Of the remaining applications, 3200 received a withdrawn or void outcome, 3900 were invalid, and 200 were refused.
- Overall, as of 31 May 2020, the total number of applications that have been concluded was 3.3 million (3,319,000). Of these, 57% were granted settled status and 41% were granted pre-settled status. Of the remaining applications, 28,900 received a withdrawn or void outcome, 14,100 were invalid and 900 were refused. Of the total refusals, 99% were refused on eligibility grounds and 1% were refused on suitability grounds.
- In total, as of 31 May 2020, Polish (697,00), Romanian (590,100) and Italian (363,600) nationals represented the highest number of applications. Approximately 189,800 applications were also received from eligible non-EEA nationals.

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

### **EU Settlement Scheme during COVID-19**

Throughout the Coronavirus pandemic a wide range of support has remained available for those who need help applying or have questions about the scheme. The Settlement Resolution Centre telephone service has now resumed. Both the general helpline and dedicated line for support organisations have now re-opened.

Click [here](#) for more information on what services are up and running.

### **Immigration Rules Changes**

On 14th May 2020, updates to the [Immigration Rules](#) were laid in Parliament, which includes changes to the EU Settlement Scheme.

The rule changes will widen access to the scheme to victims of domestic violence or abuse. If a family member's relationship with an EEA citizen breaks down permanently because of domestic violence or abuse, this, coupled with their own continuous residence in the UK, will be recognised as part of their application.

In addition, the rule changes mean that family members of British or dual British-Irish citizens who are people of Northern Ireland will be able to apply for status under the EU Settlement Scheme.

This delivers on the commitment the UK Government made in the ['New Decade, New Approach' agreement](#) in January 2020 which restored the power sharing executive in Northern Ireland.



## Education

### Upcoming scholarship deadlines

Lots of scholarships for people seeking refugee protection are open for applications. Student Action for Refugees (STAR) have compiled a directory of refugee scholarships on their website for information and links on how to apply. Upcoming deadlines in the East Midlands include Nottingham on 30<sup>th</sup> June and Leicester on 31<sup>st</sup> July.

For more information, please visit [STAR's website](#).

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## Publications

### **Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) in child refugee and asylum seeking populations**

Public Health Wales published this report which brought together what is currently known about ACEs in refugee and asylum seeking children arriving and settling into host countries, highlighting their nature, extent and impact. This report concluded that there is a pressing need to understand the nature and extent of adversity that these children suffer, both in their lives before arrival, and as they navigate their new environments and circumstances.

Click [here](#) to read the full report.

### **Forced Migration, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence and COVID-19**

This study was conducted by the University of Birmingham, which was initiated in response to conversations with Refugee Women Connect and anecdotal information suggesting that forced migrant survivors' suffering increased in the COVID-19 crisis. Click [here](#) to read the executive summary, or [here](#) for the full report.

### **Annual inspection of Adults at Risk in Immigration Detention (2018–19)**

This inspection examined how the Home Office's 'Adults at Risk' process was working. The inspection was commissioned by the Home Secretary in response to a recommendation made by Stephen Shaw CBE in his report 'Assessment of government progress in implementing the report on the welfare in detention of vulnerable persons', which was published on 24 July 2018.

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

### **Like pebbles in a pool: the effect of community sponsorship on knowledge about, and attitudes to, refugees in less-diverse communities**

A study undertaken by the University of Birmingham aimed to develop an understanding of the ways in which encounters with community sponsorship groups or refugees had impacted on their knowledge and understanding about refugees, and to examine some of the challenges and opportunities associated with community sponsorship groups for local communities. This report found

that there were clear signs that direct contact with refugees and those who work with them has the biggest influence of understandings and attitudes. However, word of mouth sharing of information by those who encounter refugees and CSS volunteers also appeared to be important.

Click [here](#) to read more.

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## Jobs

### **Solicitor - Immigration (Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children and Refugees)**

#### **Grade J - £44,632 (annual pay increase pending) 37 hours**

This is an exciting opportunity to provide leadership and support to East Midlands' local authority legal advisers and social workers in their management of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC), care leaver and No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) casework. Representation on casework is specifically excluded.

For more information or to apply, [click here](#).

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## Funding

### **Coronavirus Mental Health Response Fund (CMHRF) grant**

Voluntary and community sector (VCS) mental health organisations have a vital role working in the community providing support to anyone who has a mental health need. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, demand for mental health services is increasing. To help VCS organisations based in England continue to provide mental health services – or provide additional support – organisations can apply for a Coronavirus Mental Health Response Fund (CMHRF) grant.

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

### **Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)**

The UK will continue to participate in AMIF under the current 2014 to 2020 multiannual financial framework (MFF) until its closure and the AMIF UK Responsible Authority is inviting proposals for projects to be supported through the fund. These projects may be funded until 31 December 2022.

For further details and how to make an application, click [here](#).

### **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 seeker 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](mailto:Hannah.Smith@emcouncils.gov.uk)

### **Online Training /Webinar**

#### **Step-down pathways for people with no recourse to public funds (NRPF) (2<sup>nd</sup> July, Online, £50)**

Stronger Together are offering a training on 'developing your knowledge to identify step-down pathways for people with no recourse to public funds who have been accommodated as part of the emergency response' to protect rough sleepers and other vulnerable homeless groups during the Covid-19 pandemic.

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

#### **Tackling Modern Slavery in UK Businesses (from 7<sup>th</sup> July onwards, Online, FREE)**

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](#).

#### **Eritrean Cultural Orientation Session (8<sup>th</sup> July/9<sup>th</sup> July ,Online, FREE)**

East Midlands Councils are hosting a virtual training session by IOM UK. Exploring Eritrean refugees' perspectives, experiences, and needs, host communities can increase their understanding and adapt their support for enhanced effectiveness. This 2.5-hour webinar will be run by IOM UK and will provide an overview of Eritrean communities through topics such as cultural heritage, health and education experiences, recent history, and conditions of displacement.

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

### **Iraqi Cultural Orientation Session (20<sup>th</sup> July/ 23<sup>rd</sup>, Online, FREE)**

East Midlands Councils are hosting a virtual training session by IOM UK. Exploring Iraqi refugees' perspectives, experiences, and needs, host communities can increase their understanding and adapt their support for enhanced effectiveness. This 2.5 hour webinar will be run by IOM UK and will provide an overview of Iraqi communities through topics such as cultural heritage, health and education experiences, recent history, and conditions of displacement.

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

### **Honour Based Abuse/ Forced Marriage Session – Basic Awareness (17<sup>th</sup> July/, Online, £15)**

East Midlands Councils are hosting a virtual 90 minute training session by Bal Kaur Howard at BHK Training. This session is a basic awareness session which aims to raise awareness, identification and support processes of Honour Based Abuse/ Forced Marriage and the impact on victims/ children to enable practitioners to be able to understand the issues and support processes available to children and adults across all cultures, religions and families.

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

### **Honour Based Abuse/ Forced Marriage Session – Advanced (27<sup>th</sup> July/, Online, £15)**

East Midlands Councils are also hosting an advanced session virtually for 90 minutes by Bal Kaur Howard at BHK Training. This session will enable delegates to be able to risk assess and manage the risk to support victims / children through the use of case studies, learn how practitioners can identify the risks in an agency setting and safety plan as well as understand the Forced Marriage Protection Legislation & immigration / policy to support victims with No Recourse to Public Funds. This session also includes lived experience survivor's story.

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

## **Training feedback**

### **County Lines Training (Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March, Melton Mowbray)**

On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March, the EMSMP hosted a training session facilitated by the County Lines Coordination Centre to support professionals working with children and young people by focusing on training, consultation and best practice guidance to help better identify and protect children from exploitation, with a focus on County Lines across the East Midlands.

The training session explored the risks of county lines, the current trends across the East Midlands and the future of tackling county lines in the region. The event was well attended with 90 individuals attending. Overall, 100% of respondents stated they felt as though they had a better understanding of County Lines in the East Midlands after the training was delivered and over 97% said they felt more confident to recognise signs of County Lines and the new emerging trends.

### **Sudanese Cultural Orientation Session (Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May, Online)**

Coordinated by the EMSMP, on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April, IOM UK hosted their first virtual session to the East Midlands region for individuals working with resettled refugees or unaccompanied asylum seeking children. The 2-hour training session was well attended by 31 participants. Overall, 75% of the respondents felt the degree to which their learning needs were met was above very good. 63% of respondents rated the facilitators' knowledge as excellent. Additional feedback was given for more time on the virtual training and a further session to include refugee cultural adaptation in the country of resettlement.

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](mailto:Hannah.smith@emcouncils.gov.uk)

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

The next Strategic Migration Partnership Briefing will be available in September 2020.

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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