

East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership Briefing

April 2017

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

In this Briefing:

Asylum Seekers and Refugees

- Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)
- The Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement (SVPR) Programme
- Analysis of the UK Asylum System
- Online Guides – foster carers; and welcoming Syrian refugees
- ESOL

Migration

- Statistics
- Article 50 and Migration
- Reports: asylum seekers in Greece; immigration detention; and integrating immigrant professionals
- Health and social care
- Online Guides: dealing with hate crime; and labour exploitation
- Right to Rent Scheme
- Story-telling project
- Attitudes towards Immigration and Happiness

Funding

- Controlling Migration Fund

Training and Events

- Upcoming local, regional and national training and events

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Asylum Seekers and Refugees

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)

The National Transfer Scheme

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

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

Further to the [written statement \(HCWS467\)](#) to Parliament in February regarding the future of Section 67 of the Immigration Act (the “Dubs Amendment”) (see EMSMP Briefing Feb 2017), a further [written statement \(HCWS619\)](#) has very recently (26 April) been placed before Parliament by the Immigration Minister, indicating that the Government has become aware that 130 places were not accounted for in setting the specified number in February. Therefore, the Government is increasing the specified number from 350 to 480. This includes over 200 children already transferred from France as part of the Calais camp clearance. It does not include children transferred to the UK pursuant to the family reunion criteria of the Dublin III Regulation.

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

Dublin III

Coram Children’s Legal Centre (CCLC) has written a [new fact sheet](#) detailing many issues that might come up regarding support to children who come to the UK to join family members through the Dublin III regulation this group of children. CCLC also has a project to help these children get legal representation for their asylum claims, whether or not they are entitled to legal aid. If you are working with or know of a child who has been transferred through Dublin III who does not have legal representation, you can email dublinchildren@coramclc.org.uk to request help in finding pro bono representation.

In addition charities have asked the UK government to transfer the children who have a legal right to be with their families in the UK from the Dunkirk camp which was badly damaged in a fire earlier this month, camp. Click [here](#) to read more.

UASC Frequently Asked Questions

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

The Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (SVPRS)

SVPRS and Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme (VCRS) Policy Announcement

The Home Office has recently announced that, from 1st July, those admitted under the SVPRS and VCRS will be granted refugee status and five years' limited leave to remain. This is a change to the current provision which grants five year's Humanitarian Protection. Those who have been resettled under these programmes before this date will be given the opportunity to submit a request to change their status from Humanitarian Protection to refugee status. Further details on the policy announcement are available in the [written statement](#) by the Home Secretary.

Information on the Syrian 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

Further details of unaccompanied migrant children and Syrian refugee programmes are available from the [Local Government Association](#).

APPG on Refugees - Refugees Welcome Inquiry

On 25 April 2017, the All Party Parliamentary Group on Refugees published their [report](#) "Refugees Welcome?". The report follows an inquiry carried out by a cross-party panel of Members of Parliament and Members of the House of Lords.

The inquiry considered the experiences of refugees who have claimed asylum in the UK, as well as those of refugees who have arrived in the UK through other paths, such as resettlement. In particular, the inquiry focused on the integration of new refugees, including success in finding employment, securing accommodation and, where appropriate, help with English language skills.

You can read more about the report's findings [here](#).

For more information about the inquiry, please contact [Jon Featonby](#)

Analysis of the UK Asylum System by Refugee Council

The Refugee Council has published a [new analysis](#) of the latest developments in the UK asylum system.

The report forms part of the Asylum Information Database; a project coordinated by the European Council on Refugees and Exiles which aims to provide up to date information on asylum practice in 20 countries. The UK report gives an overview of the asylum procedure and draws together relevant facts and figures relating to refugees and people seeking asylum in Britain. It also assesses a variety of changing policies and practice, including examining the implications of the Immigration Act 2016; integration support to newly recognised refugees; and discussing developments to the way the UK shares responsibility for caring for unaccompanied children around the country.

Teenagers in Foster Care: A handbook for foster carers and those that support them

Researchers at the University of Oxford have produced a [handbook](#) aimed at foster carers and those who support them, for example their families, supervising social workers, children's social workers, teachers, fostering providers and therapists. It provides a resource for those involved in fostering teenagers and includes consideration of unaccompanied asylum seeking young people in foster care.

Welcoming Syrian Refugees – An Introductory Guide

A new [welcome guide](#) offers practical advice to individuals, groups and community organisations on how they can help to resettle Syrian refugees. It also offers step-by-step information on how to form groups, approach local councils, and what groups will need to provide.

The aim of the guide is to enable faster rates of resettlement in communities, to show that the UK has the capacity and the appetite to resettle greater numbers of refugees, say the publishers. They also hope that the guide will inspire other teams to come together to aid resettlement by providing them with the knowledge and confidence to turn their aspirations into reality.

Refugee Action Report finds Refugees wait up to Two Years for English Lessons

A [report](#) by Refugee Action's Let Refugees Learn campaign is calling on the Government to provide full and equal access to English language lessons for all refugees. Its research showing the worsening state of ESOL provision in England comes amid a growing body of evidence finding that learning English is vital for effective integration [quoted in the *East of England SMP Monthly Bulletin Feb-Mar 2017*].

Migration

Latest Immigration Statistics

The **Home Office** has published its [latest immigration statistics](#) for October to December 2016. The publication covers quarterly and annual statistics relating to those: coming to the UK; extending their stay (temporarily or permanently); gaining citizenship; applying for asylum; and being detained or removed, as well as immigration for work, study and family reasons.

Asylum applications in the UK from main applicants decreased by 7% to 30,603 in the year 2016, the first annual fall in asylum applications since 2010 (17,916). Numbers of asylum applications in the last two quarters of 2016 (7,146 in July to September and 7,419 in October to December) were considerably lower than in the same two quarters of 2015 (10,231 in July to September and 10,196 in October to December).

In 2016, the largest number of applications for asylum came from nationals of Iran (4,192), followed by Pakistan (2,857), Iraq (2,666), Afghanistan (2,341), Bangladesh (1,939), Albania (1,488), and India (1,488). Most applications for asylum are made by people already in the country (87% of applications in 2016) rather than immediately on arrival in the UK at a port.

There were 1,591 grants of asylum or an alternative form of protection to Syrian main applicants at initial decision in 2016. The grant rate for Syrian applicants was 86%, but some of those not granted will have been transferred to have their case assessed by another EU member state, and other applicants may have been found not to be Syrian following investigation. An additional 4,369 Syrian nationals (including dependants) were granted humanitarian protection under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) 2016. Since this scheme began in 2014, a total of 5,706 people have been resettled.

Including dependants, the UK had the sixth highest number (39,000) of asylum applications within the EU in 2016. Germany (692,000), Italy (117,000) and France (83,000) were the 3 EU countries that received the highest number of asylum applications, together accounting for 75% of asylum applications in the EU in that period.

The **Guardian newspaper** has analysed the Home Office's data. According to the [Guardian's analysis](#), more than half of all asylum seekers (57%) live in the poorest third of the country, including Leicester and Nottingham within those figures. The Guardian analysis also suggests that the richest third of the country houses 10% of all asylum seekers, basing calculations on the median income in each local authority for which income data is available.

International student migration research

The Office for National Statistics and other government departments are working together on a continuing programme of research to understand better what international students do after their studies and [this article](#) provides an update on progress made since the last published update in November 2016.

Latest provisional figures show that in the year ending September 2016:

- long-term immigration to the UK was 596,000 and long-term emigration was 323,000; net migration was therefore 273,000
- long-term immigration for study was 126,000 (87,000 were non-EU nationals)
- long-term emigration for former students was 62,000 (41,000 were non-EU nationals)

Article 50 and Migration

With the triggering of Article 50 on March 29th the Government has begun the formal process of the UK leaving the European Union. Unless a deal between the UK and the EU is struck to extend the timeline, the UK will cease to be a member of the EU in two years. The high level of EU migration to the UK was an important factor in the vote to leave the EU, and the impacts of Brexit are likely to be particularly significant for both EU nationals in the UK and UK nationals in the EU.

The Migration Observatory at the University of Oxford has produced a [commentary](#) which provides key data about EU migration to and from the UK and the EU migrant population of the UK, synthesises some of the Migration Observatory's analysis on the issue, and provides links to key pieces they have put together on the subject.

Assessment of Conditions for Asylum Seekers in Greece

The EU-Turkey deal has meant thousands of people have been stuck on the Greek islands for the past year, and most without access to asylum procedures and refugee protection, Human Rights Watch says in its recent report "[Greece: A Year of Suffering for Asylum Seekers](#)". This assessment of conditions was released to coincide with the first anniversary of the agreement between the EU and Turkey, signed on March 18, 2016.

APPG on Migration Report on Immigration Detention

A cross-party group of MPs and Peers has recommended that the next government should introduce a maximum time limit of 28 days on the length of time anyone can be detained in immigration detention. The call comes in a recently published [report](#) following a joint inquiry into the use of immigration detention in the UK by the APPG on Refugees and the APPG on Migration.

The inquiry panel concludes that the enforcement-focused culture of the Home Office means that official guidance, which states that detention should be used sparingly and for the shortest possible time, is not being followed, resulting in too many instances of unnecessary detention.

Successful Initiatives for Integrating Foreign-Trained Immigrant Professionals

The Migration Policy Institute has produced a [report](#) which explores a range of frontline programmes and policy reforms in the US that are providing cutting-edge career navigation, relicensing, gap filling, and job search assistance for foreign-trained professionals in a wide range of occupations. It also examines different state policy and licensing contexts that affect these highly skilled individuals, with a focus on the dense thicket of state laws and regulations that slow or prevent qualified individuals from practicing in a wide range of occupations [quoted in the *East of England SMP Monthly Bulletin Feb-Mar 2017*].

150,000 social care and NHS jobs at risk following Brexit

Public Sector Online [reports on analysis](#) published by the Trades Union Congress (TUC) which suggests that almost 150,000 NHS and adult social care workers are at risk of losing the right to live and work in the UK due to uncertainty around immigration laws following Brexit. The analysis reports that the UK's health and social care sectors could be seriously affected if workers are forced to leave the country following Brexit, putting the vulnerable people who are protected by these sectors at risk.

Pregnant women without legal status 'too afraid to seek NHS care'

The Guardian newspaper [reports](#) that hundreds of pregnant women without legal status are avoiding seeking NHS antenatal care because of growing fears that they will be reported to the Home Office or face high medical bills, according to charities that work with vulnerable migrant women.

The Department of Health spokesperson said no one should be denied urgent treatment and “vulnerable people, including those seeking asylum and refugees, are not charged for NHS care they receive”.

Guide to Dealing with Hate Crime

A [new guide](#) to help victims of hate crime and Non-Governmental Organisations that work with victims has been published by the UK Race and Europe Network (UKREN) with backing from the European Network Against Racism and the Home Office.

Guidelines for developing an effective complaints mechanism in cases of labour exploitation or abuse

Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM) has published [guidelines](#) for developing an effective complaints mechanism in cases of labour exploitation or abuse. The guidelines explain what components are needed for a complaints mechanism to be effective in preventing and responding to labour exploitation of migrant workers. The guidelines are available in English, Dutch, German and Czech.

Right to Rent Scheme – civil penalties issued to landlords of undocumented migrants

As has been recently reported by various media outlets, in answer to a written parliamentary question the Immigration Minister has [given details](#) of civil penalties issued to landlords under the Right to Rent Scheme. Since the start of Phase 2 of the scheme from 1 February 2016, 91 landlords across England have been issued with a civil penalty. All were first time penalties. 55 related to lodgers in a private household and 51 related to occupiers in rented accommodation.

The total amount collected from the scheme up to 13 December 2016 is £29,575.31.

Child Migrants Welcome - a new storytelling project

Queen Mary University in London and the V&A Museum of Childhood in Bethnal Green have joined forces to help people who migrated to the UK under the age of 18 to tell their stories in innovative and powerful ways. If you know of any children, young people or adults who would like to be involved, more information is available at: <https://childmigrantstories.com/about/child-migrants-welcome/>. The researchers are also looking for frontline staff who work to support migrant children to share their experiences. Email world@childmigrantstories.com or ring 07949 080 526 if you or others you know would be happy to participate.

Research published into Attitudes towards Immigration and Happiness

The University of Leicester has produced [new research](#) to examine the correlation of opinions on immigration and happiness.

The British Sociological Association's annual conference in Manchester heard from Dr David Bartram, of the University of Leicester, who has analysed data from the European Social Survey on 5,995 people in the UK to correlate their opinion on immigration with how happy they described themselves on a scale of 0-10.

Those who wanted no more immigrants to enter scored an average of 7.16, and those who would allow 'many' scored 7.91.

Funding

Controlling Migration Fund

On 28 March, Ministers from DfE, DCLG and the Home Office wrote to English upper tier local authorities to set out how the Controlling Migration Fund will respond to proposals around resettlement of UASC.

As set out in the letter, in the first instance a contribution totalling £2.04m has been made to recognise those authorities supporting the response to the increase in UASC arriving during 2016. The letter also explained that the DCLG will be considering further how the Fund could support development of capacity in areas caring for increased numbers of UASC. In doing so, the DCLG will take into account all UASC related proposals received up to and including 28 April 2017, and will respond in due course. Areas who do not submit a proposal will also be considered.

The DCLG has prepared a [Frequently Asked Questions 2017-18](#) document providing updated information on bidding through the fund.

Training and Events

UASC Age Assessment Training (28 April)

East Midlands Councils are hosting a one day training course on Age Assessments for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children. This practical training will cover the legislative background to asylum claims; consider the relevant guidelines applicable; look at the Merton and other relevant decisions; and examine the issues involved in preparation for the assessment and then the assessment itself.

The training will cover:

- When and why to assess: decisions of the courts and tribunal
- Current UKVI/Home Office Guidance
- The process of assessment
- Practice and pitfalls
- Asylum

For further details and to reserve a place, click [here](#).

Access to Education (9 May)

Coram Children's Legal Centre's **free** training session is designed to give an overview of legal entitlements and issues surrounding access to education for children and young people who are within

the immigration or asylum systems. Education at all levels will be covered: compulsory education, ESOL, college and university.

This course was designed in collaboration with, and will be delivered by, CCLC's youth rights trainers.

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

The Rights and Entitlements of Young Refugees and Migrants (20 June)

Coram Children's Legal Centre's one-day training course (Tuesday 20 June 2017, 10:00am to 4:30pm) covers law, policy and processes affecting migrant and asylum-seeking children and young people, focusing on unaccompanied children who are looked after and care leavers. Participants gain an understanding of these children's particular needs and vulnerabilities, gaining a practical understanding of how to support them across different areas: the asylum and immigration system, trafficking, age assessment, care and support including transition at 18 and 21, and access to education.

Click [here](#) for further details of this and other CCLC courses.

NRPF and Human Rights Assessments (Adults – 21 June; Children & Families – 28 June)

The NRPF Network are facilitating two one-day training events on NRPF and Human Rights Assessments: the first covering the issues relating to adults, the second covering children and families. For further details and to book, see the [NRPF Network training pages](#).

Derby Refugee Week 2017 (15-24 June)

Advance notice of this year's Refugee Week in Derby, organised by the Derby City of Sanctuary team. The provisional programme includes a multi-faith tour, city centre entertainment to promote asylum issues, cultural exhibitions, a history event, reading group, and creative session for refugee women.

Further details from Guy Freeman gfreeman@redcross.org.uk

East European Roma Cultural Awareness Training (21 June)

Britain has one of the largest populations of East European Roma in Western Europe, with high concentrations in London, East and West Midlands, Yorkshire and the North West. Accurate estimates are difficult, but the total population is believed to be 200,000 – 300,000.

The Roma Support Group is providing Cultural Awareness Training on 21 June in Sheffield. This will look at Roma culture, juggling different cultural norms, the key issues affecting the Roma, and how to work more effectively with Roma individuals and families.

Full information, and on-line booking facilities, can be found at www.ccclimited.org.uk.

Alternatively, you call the Roma Support Group on 0115 916 3104.

Tackling Modern Slavery in UK Businesses/ Global Supply Chains (various dates May – June)

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

Future East Midlands SMP Briefings

The next Strategic Migration Partnership Briefing will be June 2017.

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

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