

# East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership Briefing

December 2019

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

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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 currently accepting transfers. Participation in the scheme remains voluntary.

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

#### **British Red Cross – Free Online Training for family based-carers and care professionals**

The British Red Cross' [SAFE e-learning](#) courses aim to enhance the knowledge and skills of professionals and family-based carers (foster carers and kinship carers) who provide care and support to unaccompanied and separated children in Europe. This online course may also be useful for a wide range of professionals and individuals who wish to enhance their knowledge on the issues related to unaccompanied and separated children. The training focuses on the asylum process, rights and entitlements of the child, care planning and provisions and integration in the UK.

The course is structured into two modules that consist of a core module which provides an introduction to overall understanding of the situation of the unaccompanied and separated children. The other part of the course contains context and information on the national legal framework on asylum as well as care provisions.

#### **Coram BAAF Online Training resources - Caring for Unaccompanied Migrant Children: a foster carer training package (United Kingdom)**

IOM and Coram BAAF together have produced online training resources from their Fostering Across Borders (FAB) project that ran from January 2018 to September 2019 which was set up to improve and expand the quality of family-based care for unaccompanied migration children. The training package has been adapted to support the delivery of training to family-based carers by providing them with the knowledge, skills and tools needed to provide these children with the best possible standards of care. The package has also been developed to enable professionals and experienced family-based carers to run a short modular course for foster carers or potential foster carers of unaccompanied migrant children.

To download the resources and training manual, [please click here](#).

## **UNHCR Reports on Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children**

UNHCR have recently published three reports on UASC including '[Putting the Child at the Centre](#)' which is an analysis of the application of best interest's principles for both unaccompanied and separated children in the UK. They also published '[A Refugee and then...](#)' and '[Destination Anywhere](#)' which looked at participatory assessment of the reception and early integration of UASC in the UK and the profile and protection situation of UASC and the circumstances which lead them to seek refuge in the UK.

## **New Guidance Available on Legal Aid for Separated Children**

In October 2019, the Government amended the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012, bringing all non-asylum immigration and citizenship matters for separated children back into the scope of legal aid. Coram Children's Legal Centre with other organisations, have put together a practical guidance document to raise awareness of the change and the types of children and cases that are covered.

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

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

### **Statistics**

The Home Office published their statistics (year ending September 2019) on the Vulnerable Person Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) accounted for just over three-quarters (4,291) of those resettled in the UK in the year ending September 2019. Since it began in 2014, 18,252 people (mainly Syrian nationals) have been resettled under the scheme. A further 637 people were resettled under the Vulnerable Children Resettlement Scheme (VCRS) over the last year.

Up until 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019, the East Midlands have resettled 850 through the VPRS 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).

## Asylum

### Home Office new induction documents for asylum seekers on rights and expectations

This guide has been produced for asylum seekers staying in temporary accommodation while their claim for asylum is being assessed, explaining UK rights and expectations. This contains important information about UK culture, values and law, health and welfare services, staying safe and getting support and can be downloaded in 11 different languages.

To access these documents, please [follow the link](#).

### Alternative routes to contact Migrant Help

With thanks to the [East of England Strategic Migration Partnership](#), the director of Asylum Services for Migrant Help has acknowledged that there are lengthy waiting times to get through to their telephone centre. As their peak times are from 10:30 to 16:00, callers are reminded that they are open 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year and can assist with queries whatever the time is. Alternatively, please use the following routes/ email addresses: For Issue Reporting and Advice and Guidance: there is a new section onto the Service User Portal, which can be found on the portal under the Contact Us option (Email).

E: ASCorrespondence@migranthelpuk.org is to be used for all other communications relating to asylum support including supporting documents for support applications.

E: Escalations@migranthelpuk.org is for cases that need escalating to managers.

E: Submissions@migranthelpuk.org is for communications relating to asylum support applications that have been submitted to the Home Office.

E: S98@migranthelpuk.org is for applications (and requested evidence) relating to a request for S98 support applications.

E: Outreach@migranthelpuk.org is for requests for an outreach appointment. Lastly, a webchat option is available to access by clicking on Contact us and Live chat on the Service User Portal.

### Asylum Matters guides to AASC and AIRE contracts

Asylum Matters have developed [resources](#) focusing on the Asylum Accommodation and Support Contract (AASC) and the Advice, Issue Reporting and Eligibility (AIRE) contract. The aim of these resources is to support frontline organisations to help people seeking asylum to understand their rights under the new contracts.

### Migrant Help UK New Free Asylum Help Number

The UK free number for Migrant Help's Asylum Services has now changed to 0808 8010 503. If you would like an updated version of the Asylum Help Services leaflet, please [click here](#).

## English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

### NATECLA launch their Framework for Good Practice in Voluntary ESOL

National Association for Teaching English and other Community Languages to Adults (NATECLA) launched their framework for good practice in voluntary ESOL in October 2019, which was intended primarily for those who are working in, and with, the voluntary sector in the field of ESOL. The framework provides principles of good practice along with case studies with the hope of informing policy makers and funders who are charged with integrating the work of volunteers into a national approach for those with languages other than English who seek to become active citizens in England.

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

### ESOL Regional Consultation Event – (16<sup>th</sup> January 2020, Nottingham)

For more information on this event, please visit the [event section](#).

## Community Sponsorship

The Guardian [published an article](#) on the 17<sup>th</sup> December 2019 about the positive experience that a Leicestershire community group had when resettling a family into the Leicestershire area. This article explained their process of becoming a community sponsor group with the help of [Reset](#) and other organisations locally and nationally and the acts of generosity that were given from individuals and local organisations.

If you are interested in finding out more about community sponsorships, or further information on becoming a community sponsor, please [click here](#).

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## [Migration](#)

### Statistics

#### Latest immigration statistics released

The Government's latest [immigration statistics](#) (year ending September 2019) 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 September 2019, the UK issued 19,480 grants of asylum, alternative forms of protection and resettlement which is 28% up compared to the previous year, and was also the highest number of people granted protection in the UK over a one-year period since the year ending September 2003. This comprised:

- 34,354 asylum applications in the UK in the year ending September 2019, 22% more than the previous year and the highest level since the year ending June 2016.

- 11,596 were granted asylum (up 68%); there were notable increases in grants to Iranian (up 1,348), Sudanese (up 890), Eritrean (up 839), Turkish (up 487) and Afghan (up 464) nationals
- 1,099 were granted humanitarian protection (up 3%); over half of these (622) were granted to Libyan nationals
- 1,179 were granted alternative forms of leave following an application for asylum (down 2%)
- 5,606 were granted protection through resettlement schemes (down 6%)

In the year ending September 2019, 48% of initial decisions on asylum applications were grants of asylum, humanitarian protection or alternative forms of leave (such as discretionary leave or unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) leave), compared with 30% in the previous year

UASC accounted for 10% of total asylum applications in the latest year.

6,035 family reunion visas were issued to partners and children of those previously granted asylum or humanitarian protection in the UK (up 3%).

As part of this release, the Home Office published '[Migration Statistics Quarterly Report](#)' (November 2019) which reported that an estimated total of 609,000 people moved to the UK and 397,000 people left the UK, in the year ending November 2019.

## **Government publications**

On the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019, the DWP issued a [guide](#) for refugees on applying for benefits during the 28-day period after which they have to leave asylum accommodation. It also briefly covers areas such as getting a bank account and finding housing.

## **Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking**

### **Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner -Strategic Plan 2019-2021**

Dame Sara Thornton published her strategic plan for the next 3 years in October 2019. In this document, the Commissioner stated the objectives and priorities for the period 2019-2021 and identified matters on which she proposes to report. These include improving victim care and support, supporting law enforcement and prosecution, focusing on prevention and getting value from research and innovation.

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

### **National Referral Mechanism Statistics**

The Home Office have produced their statistics on the National Referral Mechanism from July 2019 to September 2019. The key results are:

- Between 1 July and 30 September 2019, 2,808 potential victims of modern slavery were referred to the NRM; a 21% increase from the previous quarter and a 61% increase from the same quarter in 2018.

- The 2,808 potential victims were of 91 different nationalities with individuals from the UK, Albania and Vietnam being the three most common nationalities referred, as in the previous quarter.
- Around 60% (1,633) of referrals were for individuals who claimed they were exploited as adults, with the remainder (1,175) claiming they were exploited as minors.
- The most common type of exploitation for both adults and minors was labour exploitation. This category includes criminal exploitation.
- Of the 2,808 potential victims, 620 referred during this period claimed that the exploitation took place overseas only, whilst 1,831 claimed that it occurred in the UK only. A small number (176) were referred for exploitation in both the UK and overseas, whilst 181 had no location of exploitation identified.

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

### **National Referral Mechanism guidance: adult**

The Home office have also published a guidance document for the National Referral Mechanism which explains how to complete the referral form before it is considered by the relevant SCA within the Home Office, as well as access to support and indicators of modern slavery.

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

### **Anti-Slavery Day - round up**

Anti-slavery day took place this year on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October. In preparation, the Clewer Initiative produced tools to detect modern slavery and focus on prevention of homelessness exploitation. The resources are downloadable and can be found [here](#).

Lincolnshire's Police and Crime Commissioner's Office hosted a [Modern Slavery Awareness Conference](#) on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October, which was targeted at businesses and organisations that wanted to learn about what modern slavery is and how to help tackle this issue.

Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, on Anti-Slavery Day 2019 [published an article](#) to call for all other UK cities to become slavery-free.

#WeAreNotForSale campaign was started with the help of The Salvation Army to raise awareness and essential funds for recovering victims of modern slavery in the UK by buying a #WeAreNotForSale temporary tattoo. The #WeAreNotForSale special design is in the form of a bar code to illustrate how people are being bought and sold as products for profit. Tattoos can be purchased online and Salvation Army charity shops. For more information on this, please visit [their website](#).

## EU Settlement Scheme

### Statistics

On 14 November 2019, the Home Office produced [statistics](#) on the EU Settlement Scheme up to the end of October 2019.

- Around 590,300 applications were received in the month of October, totaling over 2.4 million applications altogether.
- The total number of applications during the period from 01 October to 31 October 2019 was 400,900 and of these 55% were granted settled status and 44% were granted pre-settled status. Two applications were refused on suitability grounds.
- The overall number of applications concluded was more than 1.9 million. Of these, 60% were granted settled status and 40% were granted pre settled status.
- In total, as of 31 October 2019, Polish (456,600), Romanian (388,600) and Italian (259,300) nationals represented the highest number of applications. Approximately 115,500 applications were also received from eligible non-EEA nationals.

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

### **Coram Children's Legal Centre (CCLC) report on the EU Settlement scheme and children's right to remain**

'Uncertain futures: the EU settlement scheme and children and young people's right to remain in the UK' was produced for looked after children. This report outlines the barriers to settlement demonstrated by the work of CCLC with children and young people and makes recommendations for the ways in which the government can ensure that these barriers can be overcome as the EU settlement scheme is rolled out.

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

### **EU Settlement Scheme: ID Document Check app is now available from the Apple app store**

The iOS version of EU Exit: ID Document Check app is now available from the Apple app store. EU, EEA and Swiss citizens, and their non-EEA family members, are now able to complete the identity stage of the EU Settlement Scheme application with iPhone models 7 and above following the latest iOS software update. The iOS app works in the same way as the Android app, enabling applicants to verify their identity remotely without the need to post their ID document to the Home Office. To find out more information, please [click here](#).

## Statelessness

### **Updated stateless guidance from the Home Office**

The Home Office have recently published its updated policy on statelessness to reflect the recent changes in Immigration Rules, which came into effect in April 2019. The policy makes changes to the

length of leave provided to those recognized as stateless from 30 months to five years, as well as further information on how an application is considered. The guidance can be found [here](#).

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## News

### [Refugees fleeing Syria to UK: 'We're not trouble'](#) – 9 September 2019

The BBC recently reported on the positive experiences of Syrians resettled in the UK after more than 17,000 refugees who fled the Syrian war have settled in Britain over the past five years with another 3,000 refugees are expected to arrive by the end of 2020 under the government's Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS). The latest figures have been released and can be found [here](#).

### [Why do people risk their lives to get to the UK?](#) – 23 October 2019

The BCC news also produced a news report on why people risk their lives to get to the UK after bodies of 39 people were found in the back of a lorry parked on an industrial estate in Grays.

### [Derbyshire police launch Modern Slavery Statement](#) – 13 November 2019

Derbyshire Police has become one of the first forces to publish its Modern Slavery Statement, setting out how it will prevent modern slavery and human trafficking in its operations and supply chain. Chief Constable Peter Goodman and Police and Crime Commissioner Hardyal Dhindsa are committed to ensuring that there is no modern slavery or human trafficking in any part of the force's business. The force has recently established a dedicated Modern Slavery Human Trafficking Unit to identify and support victims, raise awareness and bring offenders to justice but this report looks at the force's own supply chain. The full report can be found [here](#).

### [Lesbos migrant camp children 'say they want to die'](#) – 17 December 2019

The BBC published a report on the increasing number of children who are self-harming and attempting suicide in the Greek migrant camp on Lesbos. A four minute long video on a camp in Greece that was originally build for 2,000 people, which now hold 18,000 people, has been added which contains some upsetting scenes.

A number of East Midland's local authorities have taken unaccompanied children voluntarily into care from camps in Greece, under the government's 'Dubs Amendment' scheme.

### [High court says UK's £1,012 child citizenship fee is unlawful](#)

The Guardian published an article on how the high court has found the Home Office's £1,012 child citizenship fee is unlawful. The fee has been described as "shameless profiteering" by Amnesty International. It is estimated that there are 120,000 children in the UK without British citizenship, approximately 65,000 of whom were born here. According to the Home Office, the cost of processing

a child citizenship application is just £372, so the department makes a profit of £640 on the registration of each child.

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## Funding

### **Trafficking Survivor Emergency Support Fund**

The Human Trafficking Foundation's Trafficking Survivor Emergency Support Fund is available to help victims of human trafficking and modern slavery with small one-off grants to meet their immediate needs when no other sources of funding are available. More information on how to apply can be found at [here](#).

### **Co-operative Society – Helping Hearts Awards Scheme for South Leicestershire & Northamptonshire**

The Helping Hearts Awards scheme helps charities and groups in the regions of Coventry, Warwickshire, South Leicestershire and Northamptonshire. This year the Society is pledging more than £1million to benefit the local community. Previously successful grants included 'Men in Sheds' project in Nuneaton and another grant helped a primary school in Coventry to purchase £1,000 worth of instruments.

More information on how to apply can be found [here](#).

### **ESOL for Refugees: Workshops and Toolkit – National bid was successful!**

The Government published the Integrated Communities Action plan back in February 2019, which committed to increase integration support for all refugees in the UK. After this, a contract to run a series of ESOL workshops to produce a toolkit went live on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019. The overall aim of the workshops are to ensure there is more effective English language support for refugees by facilitating better local join up of stakeholders and ensuring more holistic awareness of how to meet refugee language learning needs. All Strategic Migration Partnerships (SMPs) across England were successful in the bid and are looking at holding these events at the start of the New Year, to produce the toolkit by the end of March 2020. For more details on the event, please visit the [event section](#) in this briefing.

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## Training

### **Tackling Modern Slavery in UK Businesses (23<sup>rd</sup> January, Spalding, Lincolnshire, 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. This one-day participatory course aims to inform and equip delegates to address forced labour, implement good practice and minimise the risk to their business.

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

### **The rights and entitlements of young refugees and migrants (11<sup>th</sup> February, London, £120)**

Coram Children's Legal Centre presents a one-day training course covering 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, and care and support including transition at 18 and 21. For more information on how to book, click [here](#).

### **Age Assessments of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (27<sup>th</sup> February, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, £79 for members, £99 for non-members)**

This one-day course is run by JMS Training Solutions for professionals working with unaccompanied asylum seeking children to establish the principles that make an age assessment 'Merton compliant' and roles and responsibilities towards the Home Office when it comes to age assessments, along with tips on how to set up an age assessment, how to use timelines and other social work tools during the assessment and how to write up an age assessment.

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

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

REDRESS has prepared a free e-learning course designed for community organisations and similar organisations without specialist legal knowledge. The training is designed for community organisations and similar organisations without specialist legal knowledge who have contact with migrants and asylum seekers in the UK, and aims to raise awareness about the following: the concept of torture in the international human rights framework; how to seek accountability for torture; and the aspects of the international human rights system which may be most useful to those who are in contact with torture survivors within the asylum system, or others at risk of mistreatment in immigration detention.

Further details are available [here](#).

### **Training Feedback**

East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership held a number of events throughout October on the EU Settlement Scheme for Children in Care and Child Trafficking. The Child Trafficking event was attended by health, social care, police and youth service professionals across the East Midlands and their feedback concluded that:

- Over 92% of delegates stated that they felt more confident to identify potential victims of child trafficking after the training as well as stating that they felt more confident about appropriately safeguarding and protecting potential victims of child trafficking.
- Over 80% of delegates felt that the training would significantly change their practice and would use this within their work.
- The EU Settlement Scheme for Children in Care workshop also received positive responses including that around 75% of delegates stated that they are very likely to use the information gained within their line of work.

If you have any training queries or are interested in future training opportunities, please contact [Hannah.smith@emcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:Hannah.smith@emcouncils.gov.uk)

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## Jobs

### **Regional UASC Foster Care Project Senior Practitioner**

**Starting salary: £35,727, Permanent, Closing Date: 12<sup>th</sup> January 2020 midnight**

This is an exciting and innovative new post to help shape the recruitment, assessment and retention of foster carers for unaccompanied asylum seeking children and young people across the East Midlands, with the post holder being employed by Leicestershire County Council. The post will be offered on a permanent basis with the successful candidate initially assigned to the project for circa 16 months and then moving onto another senior practitioner post in another part of the service, following the project's end. For more information or to apply, [click here](#).

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## Events

### **ESOL Regional Consultation Event – (16<sup>th</sup> January 2020, Nottingham)**

A region wide whole day event is being held in Nottingham which aims to bring together English language sectors with the refugee sector to share best practice to ensure there is suitable and effective ESOL classes for refugees across the country.

If you would be interested in finding out more about the event, or to book on, please contact [Hannah.Smith@emcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:Hannah.Smith@emcouncils.gov.uk).

### **The National Conference on Combatting Modern Slavery and Supporting Victims Out Of Exploitation (27<sup>th</sup> February 2020, London)**

A National conference is being held in London in February to provide delegates with an opportunity to share key insights into combating modern slavery and human trafficking, listen and learn from leading

industry experts across the sector, network with speakers and delegates from the sector and understand and hear recommended best practice and case-studies.

For more information on prices and how to book, please [visit here](#).

### **East Midlands Modern Slavery Summit (1<sup>st</sup> May 2020, Derby)**

East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership is working to organise an event for Councillors, Officers, Voluntary Sector and wider private and public sector partners from across the East Midlands on Modern Slavery in 2020. Dame Sara Thornton has confirmed her attendance as one of the guest speakers, so save the date and stay tuned.

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

The next Strategic Migration Partnership Briefing will be available in March 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:

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Merry Christmas from the team at the East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership