



North East Migration Partnership Newsletter

May 2018

The NEMP (North East Migration Partnership) Newsletter brings together various sources of information which relate to Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migration within the North East area. If you have anything you would like to be included in the next Newsletter please email: nemp@middlesbrough.gov.uk.

Subject	Unaccompanied Children	Date/Source
National Transfer Scheme (NTS)	<p>The National Transfer scheme was launched on 1 July 2016 to assist in the transfer of unaccompanied children regardless of their mode of arrival into the UK e.g. if children come direct from a refugee camp via a resettlement programme or via ports of entry for example. Since it commenced the NTS has assisted over 550 children. A cluster limit of 0.07% of child population has been set by the Home Office. Despite best efforts, some young people are waiting a long time to access services such as suitable education, long-term accommodation and health assessments and some LAs are finding it difficult to absorb any new children safely. The majority of unaccompanied children coming through the NTS are generally older (62% aged 16 or 17) and male (91%).</p> <p>At this stage, assisting with unaccompanied children is voluntary and transfer will only occur if a LA has indicated they can accommodate. However, the Home Office has asked LAs to work with the NEMP urgently, which has led to a number of requests over recent months, due to pressure in the system and a lack of overall pledges for the NE. Initially the Partnership was working towards commitments to the end of the last financial year. It was hoped this would provide a platform for a pipeline of unaccompanied arrivals and a rota of arrivals could be established with other regions. The NE is currently operating on a case by case basis with LAs and the NEMP will be writing to Leaders and Elected Mayors in early May to seek further commitments for pledges to assist for 2018/19.</p>	Home Office 2 nd April 2018

Subject	Unaccompanied Children	Date/Source
	<p>In 2017/18 the North East Migration Partnership had within its work programme an objective to work with Local Authorities to increase the capacity of foster care, supported lodgings and supported housing to meet the needs of a range of unaccompanied asylum seeking children. In working towards this objective, the Partnership has carried out a number of actions, including:-</p> <p>i) Provided assistance to facilitate a sub-regional foster care event. Darlington Assistance for Refugees (DAR) took a leading role in coordinating the event, including booking speakers, developing publicity material, press releases and giving radio interviews. DAR worked with the Adoption and Fostering Team from Penny Appeal who helped to design and produce the publicity materials. The event was attended by representatives from Durham and Tees Valley Fostering and Supported Lodgings Teams, a number of existing and potential foster carers, as well as young people who have been looked after. It provided an excellent opportunity for foster carers and young people to share their experiences. The guest speaker was Gulwali Passarlay, author of “A Lightless Sky”, he spoke of his extraordinary journey as a 12 year old Afghan boy and his experience with British foster carers.</p> <p>ii) Circulated key documents to LA Officers for wider dissemination, such as:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Guide for Foster Carers Caring for Muslim Children, produced by Mercy Mission, it focuses on three significant needs of the Muslim child in the care system, identity, religion and culture, and provides useful practical advice for foster carers and practitioners. • Inspiring stories about fostering children of different faiths; https://www.theguardian.com/society/2017/dec/03/muslim-foster-parents-it-has-been-such-a-blessing?CMP=share_btn_link 	

Subject	Announcement	Date/Source
	<p>iii) Arranged an event aimed at bringing together LA UASC leads, commissioners and housing and support providers to share experience and good practice in the delivery of housing and support for unaccompanied asylum seeking young people. More than 35 people attended, with representation from 10 local authorities and 13 housing and support providers from across the region. Guest speakers included representatives from UK Visa and Immigration (UKVI) and the Department for Education (DfE) who covered the National Transfer Scheme (NTS) and key considerations when commissioning services. Also speaking at the event were representatives from Gateshead and Hartlepool Councils, Community Campus and BACA, a specialist accommodation and support service for UASC in the East Midlands. The event provided the opportunity for group discussion about how good quality, affordable housing and support services for UASC can be delivered in the region.</p>	

Subject	Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) and Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme (VCRS)	Date/Source
VPRS	<p>In 2015 the Government committed to resettle 20,000 Syrian refugee families from camps in the Middle East and North Africa Region (MENA) by 2020.</p> <p>Following a policy change last year, any family who had made Syria their home and had to flee as a result of the conflict now qualifies for resettlement. This could be families where only one of the adults is a Syrian national and the spouse holds another passport – or whole families who had made their lives in Syria and have fled in the same way that their Syrian neighbours had to.</p> <p>The quarterly Home Office immigration statistics showed that 10,538 refugees have been resettled on the VPRS. The VPRS is just one of the routes by which the UK is helping to resettle refugees. In 2017, a total of 6,212 people were resettled in the UK - a 19% increase on 2016. Some 539 people arrived under VCRS which will resettle up to 3,000 at-risk children and their families from the Middle East and North Africa by 2020.</p> <p>In our region arrivals are progressing well and partnerships are maturing and the revised Multi-Agency meetings for migration issues are providing a useful format for exchange on all matters refugee and asylum related with LAs and key partners.</p>	Home Office 22 nd February 2018

Subject	Policy and consultations	Date/Source
Integrated Communities Strategy and Consultation	<p>The Government's Integrated Communities Strategy was published on the 14th March 2018. It is a wide-ranging cross-Government strategy, with commitments from Government as well as areas for consultation. In Chapter 2, starting on page 22, there is a section on the integration of refugees. You can find the strategy document here: https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/integrated-communities-strategy-green-paper</p> <p>The Strategy sets out the Government's intention to increase integration support for <u>all</u> refugees, including non-resettled refugees (those granted refugee status through the asylum system). The commitment is to work with civil society on how we can collectively do this.</p> <p>The strategy sets out an approach that seeks to develop and share good practice across four strands of integration activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English language learning • Employment • Mental health and wellbeing • Cultural orientation <p>We intend to use the some of our meetings and events to help formulate a consultation response and develop the approach going forward in a collaborative way with civil society partners.</p> <p>We hope this is welcome news and look forward to working with many of you to implement this important development in Government policy on refugee integration.</p>	Home Office 15 th March 2018

Subject	Policy, guidance and Consultations	Date/Source
	<p style="text-align: center;">The Consultation</p> <p>The consultation is open to everyone. The Integration Strategy Team are keen to hear from a wide range of interested parties from across local government, in the faith, voluntary, community and business sectors, and the general public. The consultation will end on Tuesday 5th June 2018 and all responses should be received by no later than this day.</p> <p>You may respond by completing an online survey at: https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/7D2C89V</p> <p>Alternatively, if you wish to respond in writing, please use the template provided on https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/integrated-communities-strategy-green-paper , or make it clear which questions you are responding to.</p> <p>You can email your response to the questions in the consultation to: IntegrationStrategy@communities.gsi.gov.uk</p> <p>We intend to use the consultation responses and the soon-to-be-formed integration stakeholder subgroup to develop the approach going forward in a collaborative way with civil society partners.</p>	<p>Home Office 15th March 2018</p>

Subject	Policy, Guidance and Consultations	Date/Source
National Conversation on Immigration	<p>Below is a summary on the National Conversation on Immigration Interim Report. This sets out findings from the first 30 National Conversation visits. The report has been launched at the same time as the Home Affairs Select Committee publishes the report of its own inquiry on immigration.</p> <p>British Future is working with HOPE not hate to give the public a voice in the policy debate about the immigration system that the UK needs after Brexit. Over a 15 month period, they will visit 60 towns and cities across the UK, where they will meet with local stakeholders and also run citizens' panels with members of the public. There is also an open online survey.</p> <p>There will be a final report for August or September 2018. The National Conversation on Immigration aims to engage the public about the future direction of immigration policy, and to see if there is common ground on which there can be more agreement.</p>	National Conversation January 2018
	<p style="text-align: center;">The importance of public engagement</p> <p>Polls across the country suggest there is little public confidence in the way Immigration is handled. Employers have also expressed frustrations about the difficulty in recruiting overseas staff and the bureaucracy involved in securing work visas. Organisations working with refugees remain concerned about backlogs and the quality of initial asylum decisions. Brexit offers a window of opportunity to reform immigration policy, and to put in place a system that protects genuine refugees, works for employers and commands broad public support. But this support will not be won without hearing and responding to public concerns. The National Conversation seeks to provide a conduit for these views. It aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a robust evidence base of public views on immigration reform. • Examine if it is possible to build a consensus on immigration policy and, if so, what steps are needed to do this. • Engage those with less voice in policy decisions, for e.g. young people and those who live outside big cities. • Contribute to increased public confidence and engagement in immigration politics in ways that engage anxieties effectively, and so build resilience against prejudice. <p>The NEMP contributed to a discussion with stakeholders in Newcastle earlier this year.</p>	National Conversation January 2018

Subject	Funding	Date/Source
Transition Advice Fund	<p>The Transition Advice Fund is a partnership between three charitable foundations (the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Unbound Philanthropy and the Legal Education Foundation) and is aimed at ensuring that EU citizens are able to secure settled status through the government’s settlement scheme—recognising that there are likely to be various groups who find this more difficult.</p> <p>You may have seen coverage in the news of research (supported by the Fund) which was published yesterday by the Migration Observatory. Unsettled status? Which EU citizens are at risk of failing to secure their rights after Brexit? This sets out what is known about people who may be at risk through the settlement scheme—whether due to a lack of awareness, difficulty evidencing their rights or other issues. This will be a useful resource for all those with an interest in making sure EU citizens are able to secure their rights after Brexit.</p>	NPC (New Philanthropy Capital) 13 th April 2018
The Controlling Migration Fund (CMF)	<p>The purpose of the Government’s Controlling Migration Fund (CMF) is to provide additional support for L.A’s in areas experiencing pressures linked to recent immigration. The Fund will be available over the four years from 2016-17 to 2019-20. Unlike previous similar funds the Controlling Migration Fund focuses on responding to the problems caused by high migration into localities as identified by local authorities. The Fund has two parts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A local service impacts part of £100m, to help English local authorities and their communities experiencing high and unexpected volumes of immigration to ease pressures on local services. 2. An enforcement part worth £40m to direct enforcement action against people in the UK illegally in order to reduce the pressure on local areas. <p>The Fund is directed at achieving benefits for established resident communities. The local services element of the Fund will support a broad range of measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities to build community cohesion and encourage integration • Tackling the increase in rough sleeping by non-UK nationals • Evidence and local intelligence <p>The CMF Prospectus containing further details and the Proposal Form, and a FAQ factsheet, are available here.</p>	Home Office 2 nd February 2018

Subject	Announcement	Date/Source
	<p>In the North East region LAs who benefitted from this funding included:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Middlesbrough to work on education, cohesion and improved data/information mapping – as well as pilot of the Local Authority Liaison (LASLO) roles to assist with for asylum seeker move on. • Stockton – To look at tackling Rogue landlords in Stockton town centre, increasing Community English language provision, providing additional language support in schools and supporting additional youth work all to improve community cohesion in Stockton. • Newcastle – who will also pilot LASLO. <p>Funding to LAs from CMF in relation to UASC.</p> <p>The Government announced on 19 December as part of the Local Government Finance Settlement that an additional funding would be provided from the CMF to build and develop capacity to care for unaccompanied asylum seeking children and care leavers. A one-off direct payment to some local authorities totaling £21.3 million was distributed in February 2018, alongside £8.9 million of UASC support bids.</p> <p>The funding is intended to build and develop authority’s ability to care for unaccompanied asylum seeking children and care leavers for whom they have responsibility. This could include a range of activities such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To recruit, train and support more foster carers and supported lodging providers with the skills and confidence to care for these children and young people. • To train staff in the particular issues of caring for children and young people including age assessment. • To work to welcome and orient new arrivals to life in Britain and the asylum process. <p>The following authorities in the North East region received this funding:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Durham £94,063 • Gateshead £94,063 • Hartlepool £188,126 • Newcastle £94,063 • Northumberland £94,063 • Redcar and Cleveland £94,063 	


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Restart Refugee Support Programme	<p>The Restart Refugee Support (RRS) programme has as its primary goal to contribute to the rapid economic adjustment of professional refugees resettled in the UK by supporting individuals' own efforts towards self-sufficiency.</p> <p>The RRS programme provides cost and interest-free loans for activities which lay the groundwork for durable economic integration. The programme is based on the belief that financial independence brought about by economic integration gives people choices, drives growth in their economies and inspires others to look at self-sufficiency in their communities.</p>	Restart Refugee Support 30 th April 2018
Goldman Sachs Syria Grant Fund	<p>The Syria Grant Fund is a national fund to support and enable resettled refugees from Syria to access employment, training and education opportunities. It also allows them to develop their English language skills. Funded by Goldman Sachs Gives, and administered by the Refugee Council, this fund will give resettled refugees from Syria access to vital resources to facilitate and enhance their integration into British life. Grants will be paid directly to individuals, and not to any organisations supporting them. The Grant Fund is open throughout the year and applications can be made at any time.</p> <p>Anyone who has been resettled to the UK under the VPRS - of any nationality - can apply for financial support to access employment, education or training opportunities; either for themselves and/or their families. The fund is also open to people wishing to improve their level of English to enable them to move closer to the labour market. Individuals resettled via the Community Sponsorship Scheme can also apply. The Grant Fund is to meet the cost of specific items which relate to the individual moving towards employment or education, for example clothing for an interview, fees to access a College Course, or childcare costs to enable someone to attend a training course. The Grant Fund does not cover costs for any electronic equipment such as mobile phones, laptops or tablets. However the Fund can support an application for financing an IT course, to enable someone to improve their computer skills and search for work online.</p> <p>Further detail including how to apply can be found at https://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/syriagrantsfund</p>	Refugee Council 30 th March 2018

Subject	Training, Meetings and Events	Date/Source
NEMP key dates and business	<p>Below is a list of training and events happening over the next quarter as part of NEMP business to give you a feel for the type of work we are progressing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9th May- Move on and Economic Inclusion Group • 10th May- UASC Lead Officer Meeting • 22nd May – NEMP Stakeholder Partnership Group event on Integration • 6th June 2018 – Members Forum • 26th and 27th June- British Red Cross Supporting Young Refugees Training 	
	<p style="text-align: center;">Learn English Together (LET)</p> <p>In June 2017 a grant was provided to Action Foundation’s Learn English Together (LET) project. The LET project is working with small community groups who want to help refugees develop their English language informally. Groups either have the will to help but lack the knowledge to start such a group, or have started to offer some provision but would like support to establish this further. Action Foundation’s LET have started to roll out their training, support and resource packs which is greatly developing informal ESOL capacity in the region.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Trying to develop/improve ESOL services in your area and interested in sharing good practice?</p> <p>The NEMP is pleased to support ESOL based events in the north and the south of the region for formal, non-formal providers and LA’s seeking to network/learn how to develop ESOL services in their local are. NEMP will be using these sessions to launch their “How to Teach Basic English guide”.</p> <p>This resource can be used to help volunteers and new tutors train staff on how to teach beginners. It was developed by our ESOL Coordinator and will be widely distributed to all networks after the event and will be available from the www.nemp.org.uk website.</p> <p>Discussions will also progress at the event on how to improve ESOL, barriers and priorities; hosted by Action Foundation on behalf of the NEMP. The event at Newcastle on 3 May 2017 was well attended and generated a lot of enthusiasm and ideas for the NEMP plan plus it generated some new ESOL volunteers! The next event will take place in Darlington – details are below to sign up if you feel you or your organisation wants to know more:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Darlington on 11 May 2017: More Information here 	<p>Action Foundation 1st February 2018</p>

Subject	ESOL updates	Date/Source
ESOL	<p>Below is a wide range of work which has been conducted by the NEMP's ESOL coordinator for the year of 2017 and a range of ESOL which is on offer to L.A's, VCS and Community groups.</p>	
	<p style="text-align: center;">Mapping Tool</p> <p>A Regional ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) map has been created and has had regular updates over the last few months. The map has been widely welcomed as a useful referral tool. By the 26th March 2018 the map has been viewed 1137 times since its completion in June 2017. The map which lists all formal and informal ESOL provision across the North East region can be accessed here. If anyone has an update they wish to put onto this please contact via email: nemp@middlesbrough.gov.uk so we can make sure it is as up to date as possible.</p>	26 th March 2018
	<p>The ESOL Coordinator's regional work identified that learners coming into ESOL classes under VPRS are often at a very low level and that in many cases tutors are finding this a new challenge. Some tutors feel they lack the skills and confidence to work with this level of learner. A two day training programme was designed based around areas of need for professional development identified by tutors across the region. The training especially targeted those involved in the delivery of ESOL to Syrians under the resettlement schemes but was open to all tutors across the region. The first session took place on December 1st and was attended by 39 tutors. Feedback from this session was very good and requests for additional content are being included in the design of day 2 of training which took place in January 2018.</p> <p>We have developed a "Help Beginners Learn English Guide" and this will be launched in May 2018, with a lead from Action Foundation who will also promote their work on rolling out Learning English Together (LET) to help train and support volunteers who deliver or want to deliver ESOL in local areas. The events will focus on enabling networking for informal and formal ESOL providers, providing an opportunity to look at the guide and resources, problem solving on issues for effective delivery moving forward to inform the NEMP work plan for 2018/19.</p>	

Subject	ESOL UPDATES	Date/Source
INTEGRATION	<p style="text-align: center;">Resources for Schools to promote inclusivity</p> <p>The links below is a list (which is not exhaustive) but contains some of the key sites for finding resources that can help schools create an integrated environment for pupils of all ages. Many sites have links to further resources, materials and lesson ideas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.teachingcitizenship.org.uk/resources • http://refugeeweek.org.uk/resources/education-resources/classroom-resources/ • http://www.redcross.org.uk/Tags/-Refugees-and-migration?cts=teachingresources • https://www.actionaid.org.uk/school-resources/search/s/topic/0-3091 • https://www.theguardian.com/teacher-network/teacher-blog/2014/jun/09/how-to-teach-refugee-week-lesson-resources-education • https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/education/2015/10/8-educational-resources-to-better-understand-the-refugee-crisis/ • https://www.oxfam.org.uk/education/resources/schools-of-sanctuary • https://schools.cityofsanctuary.org/resources/ • https://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/educational-and-mental-health-needs-syrian-refugee-children. <p>In addition the NEMP has a sourced work that pulls together ONLINE RESOURCES AND DOWNLOADABLE APP'S that can used to assist with English language development. If you would like to receive this please contact via email: nemp@middlesbrough.gov.uk</p>	

Subject	Information and Advice	Date/Source
Refugees: guidance about DWP services	An online version of a leaflet the Home Office gives to refugees when they are granted leave to remain is available here . It explains DWP services such as help looking for work and how to claim benefits and pensions.	Home Office 23 rd April 2018
Guide to the Rights and Entitlements of Unaccompanied Migrant Children	Coram Children’s Legal Centre has published an updated guide, “Seeking Support: a guide to the rights and entitlements of separated children” providing comprehensive, practical advice to professionals on how to work with unaccompanied or separated children and young people and ensure they access the support and protection they need. The guide is free and available to download or can be ordered online for paper copies to be delivered.	Coram Children’s Legal Centre 30 th April 2018
Children & Social Work Act 2017: Impact on migrant children and care leavers	Provisions of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 , which enhance local authority duties that apply to look after children and care leavers, came into force in England on 1 April 2018. The government has published statutory guidance which sets out how these new duties should be implemented. In its summary of the new provisions , the NRPF (No Recourse to Public Funds) Network highlights that care leavers with NRPF may receive advice from age 21 to 25 but not accommodation, and considers how these changes are likely to affect the support given to look after migrant children and care leavers, including unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASCs).	NRPF 15 th March 2018

Subject	Announcement	Date/Source
Child trafficking modern slavery e-learning	<p>As part of the Government 's announced package to support trafficked children, the Home Office, together with ECPAT UK and the Virtual College, have developed an e-learning package on Child Trafficking and Modern Slavery. This e-learning is for existing Independent Advocates. Only individuals holding these positions are eligible to access this training. If you are not sure if you are eligible to take part in this training, please contact childtrafficking@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk</p> <p>The course will take approximately 2 - 3 hours but you can proceed as quickly or slowly as you like. On successful completion of the course you will be able to download and print a certificate for use for CPD accreditation. To register for the course you can use the following link: www.hofftems.co.uk</p>	Home Office 26 th March 2018
NEMP Priorities for 2018/19	<p>NEMP would like to thank those organisations who have already contributed to their business plan and objectives for 2018/19. Through our events and meetings we pick a lot of emerging issues but at this time of year we also like to reflect on the next year's challenges and consider additions.</p> <p>If you would like to contribute any issues or barriers you would like us to consider in relation to refugee and asylum seeker issues or specific programmes such as VPRS, unaccompanied children or broader integration issues around ESOL, Health, and employability for example. Please return the form attached nemp@middlesbrough.gov.uk by 11th May 2018.</p> <div data-bbox="481 922 539 986" style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p data-bbox="443 991 584 1038" style="text-align: center;"> Business Plan 2018.19.docx </p>	Deadline 11 May 2018.

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