




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](mailto:nemp@middlesbrough.gov.uk).

Subject	
<p><b>AASC Update</b></p>	<p>At the end of January Mears advised all asylum seekers in Jomast properties will have either been moved to a Mears properties or into contingency accommodation whilst their property is secured/refurbished.</p> <p>At the end of February Mears advise all those in contingency (around 180 individuals) will be relocated into Mears properties. If this is not achievable for all, Mears will provide a further update by the end of February.</p> <p>NEMP/LAs asked for an Extraordinary Meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> February with the Home Office and Mears to consider how they can move forward productively together. An action plan including further data requests, updates to be provided to LAs ahead of meetings, and to hold a series of workshops across the region with Mears, Migrant Help/Reed in Partnership and the Home Office with frontline voluntary and statutory staff were some of the key outcomes to improve understanding and communication for example.</p> <p>NEMP are hosting these events for council and other statutory/VCS organisations frontline staff working in asylum seeker areas and with asylum seekers across February/March. The Home Office, Mears and Migrant Help will be present and provide key updates on their roles and responsibilities within the contracts and opportunity for networking. Please find the attached event flyer below and we would encourage you, where possible, to try to make one nearest your local area to encourage some informal networking.</p>

	 Event flyer.pdf
<b>ASC and AIRE Customer Insight</b>	<p>The Home Office Customer Insight Team have worked with Mears and Migrant Help to produce an ASC Provider Customer Insight Survey and an AIRE Provider Customer Insight Survey. A session will be held to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide an overview of the Customer Insight Team and the project;</li> <li>• Talk through the survey and chosen delivery method; and</li> <li>• Offer the opportunity for Q&amp;A and to provide feedback on the current products.</li> </ul> <p>If you would like to attend the session on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020 1pm-4pm at the Mercure Atlantic hotel, Liverpool then please email <a href="mailto:ASCCustomerInsight@homeoffice.gov.uk">ASCCustomerInsight@homeoffice.gov.uk</a>.</p> <p>In addition, NEMP will email the surveys out to the VCS Forum network to encourage direct responses and for VCS where they can to consult direct with asylum seekers to feedback on the questionnaires, which will be used to measure customers experience/satisfaction with the AASC and AIRE contracts. Please find the surveys attached below. If you have any feedback from yourself and/or those accessing your services, please email your feedback to the above ASC Customer Insight email address.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div data-bbox="562 826 611 885" style="text-align: center;">   Official ASC Customer Survey Brie </div> <div data-bbox="770 826 819 885" style="text-align: center;">   Official AIRE Customer Survey Brie </div> </div>
<b>AIRE Newsletter</b>	Migrant Help have published their latest ‘AIRE newsletter’ on 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2020 and can be found <a href="#">here</a> .
<b>Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)</b>	<p><b>UASC Statistics</b></p> <p>The Department for Education recently published statistics on the number of UASC looked after by local authorities in England as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019. You can find the full range of statistics on their <a href="#">website</a> however the main headlines are extracted below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The total number of UASC in England increased by 11% to 5,070, representing around 6% of all children looked after.</li> <li>• Most UASC are male (90%) and are aged 16 and over (85%).</li> </ul>

- The top regions in England are: London (34%), South East (19%), East of England (11%) and West Midlands (10%);
- The North East has the lowest number of UASC in England with a total of 40, this is a reduction of 20% since 2018 and represents less than 1% of the total.
- In this region only Redcar and Cleveland (10), Newcastle (9) and Hartlepool (7) have more than 5 UASC

### **New guidance from Coram and partners on legal aid for separated children**

In October 2019, the government amended the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012, bringing 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, click [here](#).

### **Dubs amendment watered down in new EU Withdrawal Bill – Guardian article**

The Guardian reports that the new EU Withdrawal Bill changes the Dubs amendment, meaning that the commitment to unaccompanied refugee children changes from a legal promise to an aim. Please click [here](#) to read the article in full.

### **Refugee Council launches stop motion animation ‘Without my Mum’**

The animation tells the story of a mother and her son whose relationship changes forever when the threat of violence forces the mother to make a decision: stay in their home as it becomes a conflict zone or protect her son and get him to safety. She chooses the latter, and though her son finds safety in Britain, and support from a foster family, the ending is far from happy with the boy bereft at the separation from his mother, broken by the prospect of a future without her. Please follow this link for more information and to see the animated film: [Puppet animation illustrates family separation through eyes of lone refugee child - Refugee Council](#)

### **UASC Events**

Home for Good are holding a Fostering and Adoption Conference on **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March from 9am to 1pm** at The Durham Centre, Belmont Industrial Estate, Durham, DH1 1TN. This half-day conference is aimed at everyone who is passionate about fostering, adoption or caring for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children whether you are exploring for the future, offering support or have welcomed children into your family. It will provide an opportunity to connect with others and be inspired and equipped to play your part. You can find out further details or book a place by following the link [here](#).

<p><b>ESOL &amp; Employability</b></p>	<p><b>Employability</b></p> <p><b>Thirteen Group</b></p> <p>Thirteen’s next <b>‘Employment Bootcamp’</b> starts on <b>Tuesday 10th March</b> for individuals across the Tees Valley Area. This is a great opportunity for individuals aged 15-24 (NEET) to move into jobs, apprenticeships, education and traineeships quickly with intensive support from Thirteen.</p> <p>Individuals receive 8 days of training to enhance their employability skills and achieve a NOCN Level 2 Accreditation. Upon Bootcamp completion they will work with Thirteen’s Employability Service on a 1-1 basis to progress into an opportunity. Thirteen’s Employer Engagement Team have sourced exclusive vacancies from many local employers which will be accessible to those who complete the Bootcamp. Individuals can be referred to the Bootcamp via email to: <a href="mailto:employability-admin@thirteengroup.co.uk">employability-admin@thirteengroup.co.uk</a>.</p> <p><b>Grants</b></p> <p><b>Opportunity to apply for an ESOL activity linking with Employability via Tees Valley ESF Community Grants</b></p> <p>Tees Valley ESF Community Grants programme is being delivered by Hartlepool Borough Council, in partnership with the other four Local Authorities within the sub-region. The programme is jointly funded by the European Social Fund (ESF) and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). There are grants of between £10,000 and £20,000 available for individual projects.</p> <p>Grants will support a range of activities aimed at assisting the disadvantaged or excluded to move closer to the labour market by improving their access to local employment and skills provision. Please note that no profit can be made through grants issued within the Community Grants Programme. Priority groups include: Participants over 50 years of age; Participants with disabilities; Participants from ethnic minorities; Participants who are Women. Further Information can be <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p><b>ESOL</b></p> <p><b>Learning Unlimited – Development of Resources – Help Required!</b></p> <p>As part of a project commissioned and funded by the Education and Training Foundation, Learning and Work Institute (L&amp;W) and Learning Unlimited (LU) are developing a new suite of resources to support the early integration needs of resettled refugees.</p>
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L&W and LU are now recruiting practitioners to volunteer to test out and/or review draft resources. This can include trying out activities with learners, or simply reviewing and providing feedback on the content. Feedback is collected via a short online form, and will be treated in confidence. Reviewers should be practitioners who are:

- an appropriately qualified ESOL teacher
- teaching ESOL at 'pre-Entry' and/or Entry Level 1, ideally to learners with a basic literacy need
- teaching ESOL to learners from refugee backgrounds
- able to test the resources and/or provide feedback between 2nd and 13th March 2020

In exchange for their feedback, participants benefit from the opportunity to help shape a new set of national ESOL resources to support resettled refugees, and access to new ideas to try out in the classroom. L&W and LU are extremely grateful for all feedback received.

For further information and registration are available at [here](#). In case of queries, please contact Alex Stevenson at [alex.stevenson@learningandwork.org.uk](mailto:alex.stevenson@learningandwork.org.uk).

#### **Free Training for Volunteers to Deliver ESOL – Limited Places Left!**

Free professional development is available between February and March 2020 for ESOL practitioners working with lower-level New to ESOL / 'pre-entry' learners. The programme is being co-ordinated and delivered by the Learning and Work Institute and Learning Unlimited.

Event timings can be anywhere between a half day (approximately 2.5 hours) and a full day (5 hours). Interested parties should be able to host and hold the event. This can include staff as well as volunteers that would particularly benefit from the training. Demand has been high, and are limited to dates between February and March 2020, so please don't hesitate to contact Alex Stevenson via email [alex.stevenson@learningandwork.org.uk](mailto:alex.stevenson@learningandwork.org.uk) or mobile number 07810 770 393 if you wish to book your organisation in. Three Organisations signposted via NEMP are already booked in for the training. You may also contact Zeban Faisal at [nemp@middlesbrough.gov.uk](mailto:nemp@middlesbrough.gov.uk) if you would like a breakdown of the content covered.

**Award Winning ESOL Course for Parents with Babies offers free downloads.**

**ESOL Stepping Stones**  
First steps for mums and babies 

	<p>ESOL Stepping Stones project from LuCiD at the University of Manchester have designed an award winning innovative 12 week ESOL course to deliver functional English to mums with their babies, in settings such as children’s centres, schools, libraries and other community settings. The complete course, FREE to download, has everything a setting needs to deliver basic ESOL in a ‘stay and play’ format, including all materials and e-training for staff and/or volunteers. For more information, your free download, purchase of hard copies or e-training module for facilitators, please visit their brand new website <a href="#">here</a>. <b>They are also running a competition for settings to win a free pack to celebrate the launch of the website.</b> Just fill in the form <a href="#">here</a>. If you wish to discuss anything further then please contact Sharon Freeman on 0161 275 2751.</p>
<p><b>No Recourse to Public Funds and Modern Slavery</b></p>	<p><b>Undocumented Persons Statistics</b></p> <p>The Greater London Authority published research they commissioned on undocumented persons. The full report is online <a href="#">here</a> and the summary is <a href="#">here</a>. You can find a write-up from the Guardian <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>Key UK-level data findings likely to be of interest are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total undocumented population is estimated to be 809,000.</li> <li>• There are now estimated to be 215,000 undocumented children in the UK. Research into the number of undocumented children in the UK was last undertaken in March 2011 and estimated that there were 120,000 undocumented children in the UK. This suggests that the population of undocumented children in the UK increased by almost 56% between March 2011 and March 2017.</li> <li>• It is estimated that around half of all children with insecure immigration status were born in the UK.</li> <li>• Only around 10% of the estimated 215,000 undocumented children aged under 18 in the UK have applied to secure their immigration status. Since 2012 there have been only 15,177 applications to the Home Office for settlement on family life grounds, for children and young people, and 6,131 on private life grounds</li> </ul> <p><b>Exploitation Disruption Toolkit</b></p> <p>Click <a href="#">here</a> for a comprehensive disruption toolkit for the perpetrators of child and adult victims of exploitation. Developed in partnership by the NWG Exploitation Response Unit and Barnardos National Counter Trafficking Service this toolkit aims to provide guidance for relevant agencies, to assist in combatting exploitation. It provides a menu of options to consider in developing disruption and safeguarding plans.</p> <p>The toolkit is aimed at statutory and voluntary agency professionals involved in the safeguarding and investigation of exploitation. It can be used by individuals or organisations, in single agency settings, multi-agency settings, exploitation investigations, safeguarding focussed meetings or perpetrator disruption focussed meetings (the list is not exhaustive). The aim of this toolkit is</p>

to consider options available to disrupt perpetrators, using a variety of different powers and tools, which are available through a multi-agency approach. This toolkit is divided into sections covering powers to protect child victims and adult victims of exploitation, powers to pursue and disrupt offenders and powers to target harden and secure locations used to exploit individuals.

### **NRM Guidance**

The government recently updated its guidance in relation to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), the framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery and ensuring they receive the appropriate support. If you think that modern slavery has taken place, the case should be referred to the NRM so that the Single Competent Authority (SCA) can fully consider the case. You do not need to be certain that someone is a victim. This guidance explains how to complete the referral form before it is considered SCA and can be found [here](#).

### **Modern Slavery Workshops**

NEMP was approached by voluntary organisations with a request to facilitate a session with the Voluntary Returns Service team as they recognised they lacked clear information to support and navigate those who have decided to voluntarily return to their home country. There is support available for people who those with no recourse to public funds depending on their circumstances [here](#).

NEMP facilitated two workshops in the North and South of the region to raise awareness on identifying, supporting and referring victims of trafficking and modern slavery, domestic abuse and honour based violence. There were three organisations invited to deliver the training: Ashiana Sheffield, Voluntary Returns Service and the National Crime Agency (Modern Slavery).

The focus of the workshop was to highlight the victim care pathway that frontline services such as local authorities and Police have to follow when they identify and support victims. They also highlighted the work of The Independent Child Trafficking Guardian Service (ITCGS) which provide direct specialist support to trafficked children, who are increasingly being used by criminals to supply drugs through the country lines drug trafficking. If you believe someone is a victim of modern slavery then you must report it. If consent is sought and not given, information has to be shared with the authorities on an MS1 – Notification of potential victim of modern slavery. Click [here](#) for the MS1 form and [here](#) for the Modern Slavery Act Policy and Statement.

### **Ashiana Sheffield**

Ashiana Sheffield are now operating in the North East to support vulnerable women and girls from Black Asian, Minority Ethnic and Refugee (BAMER) communities whose lives have been affected by violence and abuse to take control of their lives and move forward into healthy, stable and safer futures. In the North East, they work in partnership with the Salvation Army and they conduct outreach support within a few voluntary sector premises namely, Open Door North East (Stockton), Somewhere Else (Stockton),

	<p>The West End Women and Girls Centre (Newcastle) at present looking to work with the North of England Refugee Service (NERS). Ashiana also support men who have been victims of trafficking. For more information click <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
<p><b>Refugee Resettlement Scheme Update</b></p>	<p>We are approaching the end of the 5 year VPRS programme, the North East has made a huge contribution to the national 20,000 target, and we expect at the end of March 2020 the North East will have resettled nearly 2000 refugees under this scheme. This will mark the end of the current scheme, and the new scheme, which has been called the UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS).</p> <p>The new scheme has an aim of resettling 5,000 people in the first year, further years will be confirmed once the comprehensive spending review has taken place. The new scheme, is a continuation of the VPRS however it now has expanded to any refugees hosted in the Middle East and North Africa, unlike the previous scheme was largely for those fleeing the Syrian crisis. This means there will be many more languages and nationalities in this resettled cohort, Local Authorities will be able to define what languages they can support as there may be only systems set up to support Arabic speaking refugees for example. Further information is available <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p><b>Launch Event</b></p> <p>We launched this new scheme in January 2020 with a special regional event held on the 16<sup>th</sup> January. We've had lots of positive feedback about this, especially the refugees who came to tell their story and the play. We would like to thank those who came and contributed to the event, we hope this gave those who attended the right information to move forward with the resettlement scheme, and a real insight into the lives of the resettled refugees. The details of the play are below if anyone wishes to book them, it is aimed at Secondary School aged children, however can be adapted for older audiences to help with local cohesion and integration in neighbourhoods.</p> <p><b>How to be Lucky</b></p> <p>“How to be Lucky” is the interactive workshop and play that is the result of dozens of interviews with Re-settled Syrians and with their UK support workers. The principal character in our production is a Syrian man named Anwar and he shares his story of how his family’s life moved from idyllic peace, through chaos and onto the new reality of living in the UK. His story is an amalgamation and synthesis of the many stories told to us by Syrian refugees during our research.</p> <p>Breaking between performed action, audience conversation and group exercises, over the course of the piece we weave between Anwar's story and sections of direct conversation with the audience about the wider topic of what it might mean to be a refugee today.</p>



	<p>Contact Details: <a href="http://www.aninvisibleman.co.uk/plays/how-to-be-lucky.aspx">http://www.aninvisibleman.co.uk/plays/how-to-be-lucky.aspx</a></p> <p>T: 07812 039 849</p> <p>E: <a href="mailto:aninvisibleman01@outlook.com">aninvisibleman01@outlook.com</a></p>
<p><b>Home Office Statistics – Refugee Resettlement</b></p>	<p>The Home Office published their statistics (year ending September 2019) on the Vulnerable Person Resettlement Scheme (VPRS). 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 (VCRS) over the last year. Please click <a href="#">here</a> to access the resettlement data and other asylum seeker statistics.</p>
<p><b>Home Office Statistics – Asylum Seeker applications and support</b></p>	<p>At the end of September 2019, 44,156 asylum seekers in the UK were in receipt of support under Section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, up 2% from the same time the previous year. Of these, 41,214 (93%) were in receipt of both accommodation and substance, and 2,942 (7%) in receipt of subsistence only. The majority (82%) were in England. UASC accounted for 10% of total asylum applications in the latest year. As at 30 September 2019, the North East housed 4,232 asylum seekers. For more publically available information, click <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
<p><b>NEMP escalation for issues that are “stuck”</b></p>	<p><b>ISSUE REPORTING</b></p> <p>NEMP is keen to encourage all reporting of issues relating to asylum dispersal accommodation and support to go through AIRE. This ensures they are tracked and it helps inform the performance discussions the Home Office has with its contractors. There are a number of ways of contacting AIRE, which are detailed in the attached.</p> <div data-bbox="555 890 613 954" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>Reporting Maintenance Issues tc</p> <p>If however, an organisation has supported a refugee through this process and has not been able to achieve an outcome then we would encourage you to follow the complaints process. However, if the issue is urgent; such as destitution, or loss of heating/water etc and you have not been able to resolve this in appropriate timescales then please contact NEMP on <a href="mailto:nemp@middlesbrough.gov.uk">nemp@middlesbrough.gov.uk</a>. We will need full details from you to be able to follow up and consent from the refugee or asylum seeker.</p>