

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	
<p>AASC Update</p>	<p>Mears have secured a self-delivery subcontractor agreement with Jomast. Mears have agreed with Jomast that whilst some of their properties will not be used in the longer term, asylum seekers can remain in their properties to ensure a managed and measured transfer to new properties. Due to this arrangement it is likely that the number of asylum seekers who have to move is reduced. Mears are committed to engage with local authorities to ensure that they are informed of planned moves and longer-term procurement activity. Mears are working to a strategy of housing asylum seekers near to their current accommodation and supporting infrastructure. Where this is not possible, Mears will work closely with Local Authorities and the Home Office to minimise disruption. Mears' intention is keep families with school-age children in their current school catchment area. If, in exceptional circumstances, school-age children are placed outside of their school catchment area, Mears will cover transport costs.</p> <p>Further information can be found in the attached Frequently asked Questions document...</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>AAST_Mears_NEYH_QA.pdf</p> </div>

AIRE Update

Should a service user have any issues with their accommodation they should ring Migrant Help on 0808 801 0503 who will raise it directly with the accommodation provider for rectification.

Webchat is now available 24 hours a day – Monday to Friday. To access this, click [here](#). Feedback from Voluntary and Community Sector services is that webchat is working the best/quickest at the moment. A consent form will need to be uploaded and an email address for the asylum seeker.

Migrant Help have circulated email addresses for escalation routes:

- Compliance: Knowledgebase@migranthelpuk.org
- Issue Reporting: escalations@migranthelpuk.org
- Advice and Guidance: escalations@migranthelpuk.org
- Eligibility: Knowledgebase@migranthelpuk.org
- Induction: escalations@migranthelpuk.org
- Move On: PositiveMoveOn@migranthelpuk.org
- Outreach: outreach@migranthelpuk.org

Click [here](#) to access the latest Migrant Help AIRE newsletter, which details updates on Migrant Help services under the new contract.

Migrant Help Outreach

There are two ways to request outreach, by contacting Migrant Helps First Response Centre (FRC) by phone, or sending a vulnerability referral via email to the outreach@migranthelpuk.org inbox.

The request for outreach will be assessed by the National Outreach Manager or deputy, cases will be assessed on an individual basis. Please explain to FRC or on the vulnerability referral which can be sent via email, why the applicant can not be assisted by the phone line or any of Migrant Help's other services. We have included a list of indicators on the back of our vulnerability referral, meeting one of the indicators does not by itself show the applicant will require outreach support, you will need to add an explanation detailing why they will struggle with Migrant Helps other services.

The vulnerability referral can be sent:

- By Egress (secure email)
- By password protecting the document. Select file, protect document, encrypt with password. You can then email the protected form and then send a second email with the password.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you cannot send using the two methods above, please contact FRC to request outreach.
A Home Office Guide to Living in Asylum Accommodation	An information guide 'A Home Office Guide to Living in Asylum Accommodation' is now available here and sets out the service which asylum seekers can expect to receive whilst in accommodation under the new contracts. This will be provided to asylum seekers as part of the induction process when they go into dispersal accommodation. Written information will all be available in English and in the ten most common asylum seeker languages.
Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)	<p>NEMP recently coordinated a regional meeting to share knowledge and good practice on supporting young Refugees and Asylum Seekers into education, employment and training. Presentations were delivered by the Department for Work and Pensions on the support they provide to help refugees into employment, Durham Refugee Mentoring Officers shared good practice examples of supporting refugees into education and employment and Stockton Riverside College provided an overview of the further education courses and other services available for refugees. Feedback was really positive and NEMP have taken away a number of actions to progress.</p> <p>In addition to this NEMP recently coordinated Age Assessment Training a session was delivered by Just Right Scotland in July to social workers in Durham and Tees Valley with a second session to be held in September in Gateshead for social workers in the north of the region.</p> <p>E-learning courses are now available as part of the British Red Cross SAFE project (Supporting Unaccompanied children with Family-based care and Enhanced protection) for care professionals and family-based carers such as foster carers. Find out more and register for the courses here.</p> <p>On 23 July, the then Home Secretary Sajid Javid announced a change in the Immigration Rules relevant to children transferring to the UK under Section 67 Immigration Act 2016 (the Dubs Scheme). In September, a change is to be made to the Immigration Rules so that, as of 1 October, those transferring under section 67 will receive section 67 leave immediately, upon their arrival in the UK. You can read the statement from the Home Secretary here.</p>
ESOL & Employability	The ESOL and Employability Coordinator has spent time reviewing the checklists for the Digital Employment Routeway. This is following evaluations and feedback from Support Workers in the DWP, VCS and some Local Authorities. Both checklists for the Newcomer and the Support Worker run in conjunction with each other which came out of the findings as well as a review of the information that was required to assist with job searching. Next action is to start matching the organisations/Local offers to the Categories on the checklists and begin to identify the gaps in local offers. NEMP will be contacting organisations where there appears to be gaps in provision. If your organisation helps support refugees to getting closer to the labour market and would like

	<p>to participate and send in a local offer to participate in the Routeway Initiative. Please contact our offices and we will be happy to address any queries.</p> <p>NEMP are continuing to promote online access to Little Bridges and Really English which are ESOL learning platforms addressing a wide range levels of language progression. These are free via our service. Contact Zeban at Zeban Faisal@middlesbrough.gov.uk for further details for FREE registration to these sites as NEMP has secured a waiver to subscription charges.</p> <p>NEMP are reviewing current ESOL Provision on their ESOL Map. If your organisation is not on the map or if you would like to amend or add further details such as times and dates of classes, please contact Zeban on the above email. Click here for the link.</p>
Laws and Life in the UK	<p>NEMP has been granted funding from the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) through its Controlling Migration Fund (CMF) to develop a regional orientation programme for new refugees and asylum seekers (RAS). The aim of the orientation programme will be to provide new RAS with an introduction to life in the UK, insights into UK Laws, social norms, expectations, rights and responsibilities, as well as the tools to navigate unfamiliar systems and find out about services they can access, for example Family Support, Public Health, Environment Services, GPs and Department for Work and Pensions.</p> <p>As such NEMP is currently putting plans in place to roll out the programme regionally through the formation of the Orientation Task and Finish group they are setting up with stakeholders.</p>
Post Grant Appointment System Evaluation	<p>An evaluation of the Post Grant Appointment System which aims to support new refugees to access mainstream benefits has been published. The Service started as a pilot in 2016 and a similar service is now part of the AIRE contract under the move on service. The findings of the evaluation can be found here.</p>
Home Office Guidance	<p>New, improved guidance has been published by the Home Office on how it should be responding to someone seeking asylum who is experiencing domestic abuse and needs safe accommodation and support from the Home Office. A key commitment under the new guidance is a commitment by the Home Office to fund refuge spaces for asylum seeking women instead of 're-dispersing' the women away from the abuse to another area which can disconnect the woman from her support network. To look at the full guidance, click here.</p>
Updated asylum policy guidance	<p>The Home Office has updated its asylum policy guidance use to make decisions on asylum support applications. Click here to access it.</p>

Family Policy	The Home Office have published guidance on how UK Visas and Immigration staff consider claims made on the basis of family life, private life, or exceptional circumstances. The guidance can be found here .
New Resettlement Scheme 2020	On 17 June 2019, the Home Office confirmed plans for a new UK Resettlement Scheme from 2020. The new scheme will be open to refugees identified by UNHCR and vulnerable and does not have a specific geographical focus. In the first year of operation of the new scheme, the UK will aim to resettle in the region of 5000 refugees. Local authority participation in the new scheme will continue to be voluntary, with refugees allocated in the same way as currently under VPRS and VCRS. The funding package available under the new scheme will mirror that currently paid under VPRS and VCRS; a local authority will receive a five-year tariff of £20,520 for each refugees with an additional education tariff (for year one) for children ages 3-18 years. For more information, click here .
‘The health of migrants in the UK’	The Migration Observatory has published a briefing on ‘The health of migrants in the UK’. This briefing examines the health outcomes of migrants as well as the extent to which health problems impact their day-to-day activities or their jobs. To read the briefing click here .
No Recourse to Public Funds	NRPF Network has published data from 59 local authorities using the NRPF Connect database, which provides information about the households that requested, and were provided with, social services’ support in the financial year 2018-19. NRPF Network reports that, although the data shows an overall reduction in costs, it demonstrates that more could be done by central government to reduce this financial pressure on local government and to promote the wellbeing and integration of people who will clearly have a future in the UK. The full article is here .
Migration Statistics	<p>The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has produced their latest Migration Statistics Quarterly Report (MSQR) for the year ending March 2019, this provides a summary of the latest official long-term international migration statistics for the UK, it includes data from the Home Office, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).</p> <p>You may also be interested in the following link to migration-related data sources at a local authority level including migration flows, non-UK-born and non-British populations, National Insurance number registrations, GP registrations, and births to non-UK-born mothers Local area migration indicators, UK.</p> <p>Also recently released are the Home Office Immigration Statistics, year ending June 2019 this includes data on citizenship, asylum and resettlement, detention, and returns.</p>