

[Asylum Seekers and Refugees](#)

[Migration](#)

[Events](#)

[Funding](#)

[Jobs](#)

The Newsflash is a bi-monthly round up of publications, information, events, funding and jobs relating to asylum seekers, refugees and migrant workers for anyone who wants to keep up to date with the latest developments.

The newsflash is produced by the East of England Local Government Association - Strategic Migration Partnership.

## **CONTENT**

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### **ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES – INCLUDING REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT**

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- [Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme: Updated Caseworker Guidance](#)
- [Chartered Institute of Housing: Sponsoring Ukrainian refugees – what happens if sponsors pull out?](#)
- [Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme \(ACRS\): Update](#)
- [British Red Cross and UNHCR Report - At risk: exploitation and the UK asylum system](#)
- [Albanian Claims for Asylum in the UK](#)
- [Changes to the National Transfer Scheme for unaccompanied asylum seeking children](#)
- [Refugee Council Report, 'Identity Crisis: How the age dispute process puts refugee children at risk'](#)
- [Major European judgment on age assessment process](#)
- [Balkan Route: Children Face Multiple Forms of Violence Along Balkan Borders, Humiliation and Violence at Hungarian Border, Aggravated Exclusion of Ukrainian Roma Refugees in Hungary](#)

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### **MIGRATION**

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- [The Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities \(DLUHC\): An evaluation of the Controlling Migration Fund Programme](#)
- [The Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities \(DLUHC\): An evaluation of the ESOL for Integration Fund](#)
- [Adults at risk in immigration detention: modern slavery](#)
- [The Governments New Plan for Immigration: The digitisation and regulation of the UK Border](#)
- [Removal of Foreign National Offenders](#)
- [Migration Observatory Report: How is the End of Free Movement Affecting the Low-wage Labour Force in the UK?](#)
- [Work-based immigration](#)

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### **EVENTS AND TRAINING**

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- [How to Adapt Teaching for Learners who use EAL \(Online Course\) – 1-25 November 2022 – The Bell Foundation](#)
- [Cultural Diversity Day – Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum – Sunday 20 November 2022, 14:00-16:00](#)
- [Improving Mental Health Support for Asylum Seekers and Refugees – Tuesday 6 December 2022, Virtual Conference](#)

[Back to the top](#)



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## FUNDING

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- [Windrush: Community Engagement Fund](#)

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## JOBS

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- [JUMP Project Coordinators \(x2\) – Jewish Council for Racial Equality \(JCORE\)](#)
- [Legal Education Officer – Right to Remain](#)
- [Integration Officer – Bedfordshire Refugee & Asylum Seeker Support \(BRASS\)](#)
- [Communications, Community Development and Volunteers Coordinator – New Routes Integration Ltd, Norwich](#)

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## Asylum Seekers and Refugees – including refugee resettlement

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### Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme: Updated Caseworker Guidance

Changes to the Immigration Rules came into effect on 10 August 2022 to enable new applications from eligible minors (such as children who are not travelling with or joining a parent or legal guardian in the UK). The process for new applications is different and requires the planned sponsor to undergo safeguarding checks before the visa application is made. For more information, refer to the section '[Children who apply after 10 August 2022](#)' of this [guidance](#).

Guidance on support available to Ukrainian nationals and their family members has also been updated to introduce a new eligibility period for the Ukraine Extension Scheme. Eligibility for the Ukraine Extension Scheme has now been extended to allow those arrived after 18 March 2022, until 16 May 2023, to apply.

Read more about applying to the Ukraine Extension Scheme, [here](#)

### Chartered Institute of Housing: Sponsoring Ukrainian refugees – what happens if sponsors pull out?

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has found that a quarter of households currently accommodating Ukrainian refugees under the Government's Homes for Ukraine scheme want to pull out of it after six months.

According to the [findings](#) of an ONS survey conducted in July, the biggest reason for sponsors wanting to pull out after six months is that they only intended this to be the period for which they would help, and similar numbers say they now want their house to themselves. However, over 70% go on to say that they might change their mind if they received more support or more money.

Read the full article, [here](#)

### Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS): Update

Expression of interest in resettlement through Pathway 3 of ACRS is now closed. This pathway was designed to offer a route to resettlement for those at risk who supported the UK and international community effort in Afghanistan, as well as those who are particularly vulnerable, such as women and girls at risk and members of minority groups.

In the first year of this pathway, the government is considering eligible, at-risk people for resettlement from 3 groups:

- British Council contractors
- GardaWorld contractors
- Chevening alumni.

For those who have already submitted an expression of interest, they will be contacted by the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office to confirm whether they are being referred for resettlement. After the first year of Pathway 3, the government will work with international partners and NGOs to welcome wider groups of Afghans at risk.

Read the details of this scheme in full, [here](#)

### British Red Cross and UNHCR Report - At risk: exploitation and the UK asylum system

The British Red Cross and UNHCR [report](#) finds that people seeking asylum in the UK are at risk of exploitation and have been exploited in the UK. The aim of this research is to better understand the risks of exploitation for refugees and asylum seekers in the UK. By understanding these risks and the factors that contribute to them, and drawing on existing good practice in the UK, the report makes recommendations for government aimed at reducing the risk of exploitation for people going through the asylum system.



## Albanian Claims for Asylum in the UK

A marked increase in Albanian arrivals via the Channel have been reported over the past year, prompting the former Home Secretary to seek further agreement with the Albanian authorities for the rapid return of its nationals. The assumption is that many individuals are economic migrants making supposedly spurious asylum claims upon arrival in the United Kingdom. However, based on Home Office statistics, 53% of claimants are currently granted asylum outright following interview, with more cases succeeding on appeal.

This Free Movement [article](#) focuses on the observed trends relating to asylum claims from Albanian nations, over the past few years.

## Changes to the National Transfer Scheme for unaccompanied asylum seeking children

The National Transfer Scheme (NTS) was established in 2016 to enable the safe transfer of unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) in the UK from one local authority to another local authority, to meet the overall best interests of unaccompanied children and to ensure a fairer, more equitable distribution of unaccompanied children across local authorities.

Since 2016, the threshold over which local authorities have been eligible to refer unaccompanied children into the NTS was 0.07% of their child population. On 24 August 2022 in response to the increasing number of children being placed in emergency placements for UASC in hotels, the threshold was increased to 0.1% with immediate effect. Additionally on 24 August, the transfer deadline was reduced from ten working days to five working days for all transfers of UASC not currently in the care of a local authority. Local authorities transferring UASC from emergency hotel placements within 5 working days will receive additional temporary funding at a rate of £2000 per month for 3 months, in addition to the usual funding arrangements for UASC. The aim of these changes is to ensure that young people are placed in local authority care at the earliest opportunity. The [NTS Protocol](#) and [UASC funding instructions](#) have been updated to reflect these changes.

Since the NTS became mandatory in December 2021, local authorities in the East of England region have accepted the transfer of 336 UASC through the NTS. The pace of the NTS rota has remained high over the summer months, and during August and September 2022, 93 UASC have transferred into the care of local authorities in the region. (These figures are extracted from regional data held by the Strategic Migration Partnership and are subject to revision).

## Refugee Council Report, 'Identity Crisis: How the age dispute process puts refugee children at risk'

The Refugee Council has published a [report](#) highlighting the dangers around carrying out age assessments for young asylum seekers at the UK border. The report focuses on the work they have done with those children deemed adults by the Home Office and subsequently found to be children, following intervention.

It also highlights the changes made to age assessments via the Nationalities and Borders Act 2022, which allows the Home Office to medically assess those young people whose age they've not been able to prove in the usual way, using scientific methods such as x-rays.

## Major European judgment on age assessment process

The European Court of Human Rights has handed down a significant judgment concerning the age-assessment process and rights of child asylum seekers.

In *Darboe and Camara v Italy* (Application no. 5797/17), the court found that the Italian government had breached Articles 3 and 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights in relation to its treatment of a 17-year-old asylum seeker from Guinea. There had also been a breach of the applicants' access to effective remedies under Article 13. The judgment describes a litany of failures, all stemming from an initial X-ray assessment from which a doctor concluded with apparent certainty that the applicant was 18 years old.

Read the article in full, [here](#)

## **Balkan Route: Children Face Multiple Forms of Violence Along Balkan Borders, Humiliation and Violence at Hungarian Border, Aggravated Exclusion of Ukrainian Roma Refugees in Hungary**

A new [report](#) by Save the Children reveals the multiple forms of violence child refugees experience while attempting to reach Western Europe through the Balkans. This report is based on interviews carried out with 48 children, aged between 13 and 19 years old, with a focus on the level and types of violence that children experience while attempting to reach Western Europe via this route, the circumstances of that violence, and the policies and practices that exist to support them. It also provides governments, NGOs and other stakeholders with recommendations to strengthen the protection and support available to these children.

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## **Migration**

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### **The Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC): An evaluation of the Controlling Migration Fund Programme**

This is an independent evaluation of the Controlling Migration Fund Programme, exploring 14 sets of project level findings, conducted by Ipsos Mori. The Controlling Migration Fund (CMF) was launched in November 2016. The aim of the fund is to help local authorities across England, develop and deliver activities to mitigate the perceived negative impacts of recent and unexpected migration on communities in their area.

The four key objectives for the evaluation were to:

- Identify what works within different local areas and contexts to relieve pressure on local services due to migration and assess the cost benefit of different approaches implemented in different contexts;
- Identify best practice for developing new sources of data and intelligence on the relationship between migrant groups and local communities;
- Identify realised and perceived benefits of different approaches on residents and the wider community; and,
- Identify best practice to share learning across local authorities and partners.

The full report, including recommendations, can be accessed [here](#)

### **The Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC): An evaluation of the ESOL for Integration Fund**

The [evaluation](#) focused on measuring the impact and process of administering community-based English language provision. This was a one-year programme providing community-based English language lessons, and social mixing clubs and activities, in 30 local authorities to individuals furthest away from English language proficiency.

The ESOL for Integration Fund saw positive results in terms of participants' English language proficiency scores improving over the course of delivery. The programme saw around one-quarter (24%) of participants move up at least one level in speaking and listening, with 16% for reading and 18% for writing. Taking part in ESOL for Integration Fund provision led to improved social integration among learners, as evidenced from the social integration survey conducted before and after the course. For example, learners reported more frequent interactions in English at the end of the course, with the proportion speaking to 3 or more individuals in English over the previous week, increasing from one-third to almost two-thirds.

## **Adults at risk in immigration detention: modern slavery**

This [guidance](#) provides Home Office, centre supplier and healthcare staff working in immigration removal centres (IRC), pre-departure accommodation (PDA) and residential short-term holding facilities (RSTHFs) and escorting staff with information on how to identify possible indicators of modern slavery. It provides guidance on how to refer identified possible victims into the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), and the steps that should be taken to ensure individuals receive the necessary support whilst detained or on release.

## **The Governments New Plan for Immigration: The digitisation and regulation of the UK Border**

July saw the publication of the Government's New Plan for Immigration: Legal Migration and Border Control policy paper. Unlike last March's asylum-focused New Plan for Immigration, this plan focuses on the digitisation and the regulation of entry and exit from the UK. This will include the use of eVisa's, eGates and the roll-out of Electronic Travel Authorisations (ETA's).

This [article](#) focuses on what these changes to the digitisation and regulation of entry to and exit from the UK, might look like in practice.

## **Removal of Foreign National Offenders**

[New statistics](#) show the Home Office has removed 1,741 foreign national offenders (FNO) from the UK since the start of 2022, including 487 Albanian FNOs. Almost 1,000 Albanians in total (FNOs and immigration offenders) have been returned. The renewed focus on removals, part of the New Plan for Immigration, is fulfilling the government's commitment to keep the British public safe and tackle illegal migration.

The UK has also signed a new returns [agreement](#) with Pakistan, which will return foreign criminal offenders from the UK to Pakistan. It is the fifth returns agreement the former Home Secretary, Priti Patel, signed in 15 months as part of her delivery under the New Plan for Immigration. Since January 2019 the UK has removed 10,741 foreign national offenders globally (to year ending December 2021).

## **Migration Observatory Report: How is the End of Free Movement Affecting the Low-wage Labour Force in the UK?**

This latest Migration Observatory [report](#) (produced together with ReWAGE at Warwick & Leeds Universities) examines labour shortages post-Brexit. It shows that free movement has exacerbated employer recruiting difficulties post-pandemic but is not the major cause. It also examines the policy options for addressing shortages, which are complicated and imperfect due primarily to the risks of admitting low-wage workers tied to specific jobs/industries.

## **Work-based immigration**

Central to the new Prime Minister achieving her aim of boosting economic growth in the UK will be a series of key reforms to the work-based immigration system. The government logic may be that the international talent needed to grow the economy, who will be attracted to work in the country by the announcement of lower taxes, need an easy visa to live here.

This Free Movement [article](#) explores the various measures that may be introduced by the government, in what is described as a fluid economic and political situation.

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## Events and Training

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### **How to Adapt Teaching for Learners who use EAL (Online Course) – 1-25 November 2022 – The Bell Foundation**

This course provides guidance on how teachers can adapt their teaching to meet the language development needs of pupils who use EAL.

This online course explores the distinctive nature of adaptive teaching when taking into account a learner's proficiency in English. It provides guidance on how you can adapt your curriculum teaching in a responsive way to meet the language development needs of your pupils who use English as an Additional Language (EAL).

Click [here](#) for further information and to book

### **Cultural Diversity Day – Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum – Sunday 20 November 2022, 14:00-16:00**

Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum (CECF) is planning to host its annual cultural diversity day event this year in Cambridge. CECF would like to take this opportunity to invite you or your group to participate as part of the programme. It could be dance, drama, fashion, music, poetry, song.

Expressions of interest for performing should be sent to [eddie@cecf.co.uk](mailto:eddie@cecf.co.uk) As soon as possible, but no later than 30 October 2022.

To book tickets for the event, click [here](#)

### **Improving Mental Health Support for Asylum Seekers and Refugees – Tuesday 6 December 2022, Virtual Conference**

This Conference will focus on the highly relevant and complex area of improving Mental Health Support for Asylum Seekers and Refugees.

Speakers Include:

- Dr Piyal Sen - Medical Director and Consultant Psychiatrist Elysium Healthcare & Network Lead Asylum Seekers and Refugees Mental Health Network, The Royal College of Psychiatrists
- Angelina Jalonen - Head of Therapeutic Services, The Refugee Council
- Mr Gulwali Passarlay – Director, My Bright Kite
- Dr Peter Gough – Doctor, Doctors of the World

For more information and to book, click [here](#)

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## Funding

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### **Windrush: Community Engagement Fund**

This is a Home Office [fund](#) of £150,000 to support grassroots and community groups to engage communities and raise awareness of priority Home Office policy areas and the support available.

The grant fund for 2022 to 2023 focuses on continuing to support communities from the Windrush generation, with a purpose to:

- Raise awareness of the Windrush Compensation and Windrush Documentation Schemes with a focus on non-Caribbean communities and encourage them to apply to these Schemes; and/or
- Build on the insights and learning taken from our existing work on Windrush (for example the Windrush Community Fund and Windrush national communications campaigns) to understand:
  - why individuals are not applying for the Windrush Compensation Scheme and/or the Windrush Scheme (Documentation)
  - how to encourage eligible individuals to apply to these scheme

The Community Engagement Fund 2022 to 2023 is now open for applications and completed applications must be returned to [windrushengagement@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:windrushengagement@homeoffice.gov.uk) by **Friday 21 October**

[Back to the top](#)

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## Jobs

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### **JUMP Project Coordinators (x2) – Jewish Council for Racial Equality (JCORE)**

JCORE are currently recruiting for two project coordinators to run an expansion of their successful befriending scheme for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and young people (JUMP).

They are looking for self-starters who can run this valuable project independently. You'll be responsible for the day-to-day running of the project, including working with partner organisations, supporting volunteer befrienders and setting-up and sustaining pairs and helping with their training. You'll also help with writing reports to funders and ensuring compliance with protection procedures.

**Closing date for applications: Wednesday 12 October at 23:30**

For further information and to apply, click [here](#)

### **Legal Education Officer – Right to Remain**

This post has a specific focus on strengthening Right to Remain's legal education work on non-asylum matters which are not covered by legal aid, although the candidates must have good knowledge of asylum matters as well. Right to Remain are looking for someone who can hit the ground running, working closely with another Legal Education Officer and the rest of their small and dynamic team.

As a legal education officer at Right to Remain, you will be responsible for maintaining, developing, and increasing usage of our highly popular and accessible resources about the asylum and immigration system, most notably the Right to Remain Toolkit. You will deliver interactive workshops on the legal system for people navigating that system as well as professionals and volunteers. You will engage with Right to Remain's network of community groups to ensure that they are apprised of developments on the ground and that they are communicating important changes to these support groups.

**Closing date for applications: Thursday 13 October 2022 at 23:59**

For further information and to apply, click [here](#)

### **Integration Officer – Bedfordshire Refugee & Asylum Seeker Support (BRASS)**

BRASS are looking for a motivated and empathetic individual to join their dedicated and friendly team working to help refugee and asylum seekers integrate into society by enabling access to services, developing confidence, skills and abilities, and encouraging a sense of belonging.

You will work with staff and volunteers to run and develop the following existing projects:

- Tuition (one-to-one and small classes) - English Language, 'Life in the UK', Life Skills, Maths
- Women's Group
- Social events and activities including coach trips, Refugee Week events, Summer Picnic, an allotment and Christmas Party.

You will also develop new projects which help refugees and asylum seekers to make friends, communicate and integrate. Experience working with vulnerable groups and running social activities is essential. Occasional evening or weekend working may be necessary.

**Closing date for applications: Monday 24 October 2022**

For further information and to apply, click [here](#)





## **Communications, Community Development and Volunteers Coordinator – New Routes Integration Ltd, Norwich**

New Routes Integration are seeking to recruit a Communications, Community Development and Volunteers Coordinator to support them in their vital work. The principal purpose of the post is to manage internal and external communications and marketing campaigns to raise the profile of the charity, engage new audiences and existing stakeholders, and generate income, and to recruit, train and manage volunteers.

Depending on the skills set, this role could suit one person for 4-5 days per week or two people for 2 and 2-3 days per week.

**Closing date for applications: Wednesday 12 October 2022 at 23:59**

For further information and to apply, click [here](#)

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