

Children and Young People Seeking Asylum and the National Transfer Scheme (NTS): Update

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Overview

- NTS cycles have continued to be sent at rapid pace due to unaccompanied asylum-seeking children arriving in Kent and the legal ruling regarding the illegal dispersal of children to hotels. Cycles 36 and 37 were sent within a 24-hour period
- The Home Office announced that additional funding payments of £6,000 per child where transfers take place within 5 working days had been extended to include referrals transferring from Kent County Council (KCC) and not just those transferring from a dedicated UASC hotel. This funding is to support KCC to comply with the High Court Judgement and does not apply to transfers between other local authorities under the NTS.
- We currently support 40 young people who have been open to children's social care as Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children
- We have 1 outstanding transfer to honour from the NTS that has fallen out of the 5 working day timescale due to there being no offers of a home

Overview

- Since February 2023 we have responded to 11 cases of young people presenting at The Comfort Inn who have been dispersed by the Home Office as adults and then claiming asylum as an unaccompanied child. Of the 11, we assessed 4 to be children and 1 to be an adult. The remaining 6 are currently being age assessed
- We have increased our capacity within TfC of social workers approved to complete Age Assessments
- Availability of suitable care and/or support continues to be a challenge nationally
- Our current UASC cohort live in homes that range significantly in cost depending on the type of accommodation being provided
- We continue to provide accommodation for 6 young people who are now adults but do not yet have right to remain therefore have no recourse to public funds

Current NTS proposed allocations regionally

| | Interim Tranche 10 | | | | | | Interim Tranche 11 | | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------------------------|--|--------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------------------------|
| | Cycle 37 | Cycle 38 | Cycle 39 | Cycle 40 | Total (cycles 37-40) | | Cycle 41 | Cycle 42 | Cycle 43 | Cycle 44 | Total (cycles 37-40) |
| North East | 11 | 11 | 12 | 12 | 46 | | 11 | 11 | 11 | 12 | 45 |
| County Durham | 3 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 14 | | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 15 |
| Darlington | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Gateshead | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| Hartlepool | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Middlesbrough | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| North Tyneside | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Northumberland | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| South Tyneside | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Stockton-on-Tees | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 5 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| Sunderland | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 |

Current UASC numbers regionally

| Local Authority | Jan-23 | Feb-23 | Mar-23 | Apr-23 | May-23 | Jun-23 | Jul-23 | Aug-23 | Sep-23 |
|-------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|----------|
| County Durham | 49 | 56 | 59 | 64 | 62 | 62 | 68 | 74 | |
| Darlington | 18 | 22 | TBC | TBC | 18 | 28 | 20 | 18 | |
| Gateshead | 24 | 23 | 24 | 22 | 21 | | 27 | 28 | |
| Hartlepool | 6 | 6 | TBC | 7 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 6 | |
| Middlesbrough | 9 | 11 | 8 | 9 | 9 | 10 | 12 | 11 | |
| Newcastle upon Tyne | 19 | 21 | 27 | 30 | 28 | 26 | 21 | 22 | |
| North Tyneside | 25 | 27 | 26 | 25 | 25 | 24 | 25 | 28 | |
| Northumberland | 9 | 10 | 10 | 12 | 14 | 12 | 10 | 10 | |
| Redcar and Cleveland | 14 | 15 | 20 | 21 | 21 | 20 | 19 | 20 | |
| South Tyneside | 19 | 17 | 17 | 17 | 19 | 18 | 19 | 23 | |
| Stockton-on-Tees | 27 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 24 | 23 | 27 | |
| Sunderland | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 22 | 24 | 25 | 28 | |
| North East Total | 231 | 248 | 231 | 247 | 274 | 254 | 275 | 295 | 0 |

Challenges

- Continued national shortage in terms of availability of homes and the risk of supported accommodation providers failing the Ofsted registration process
- Lack of family-based carers – the NEMP regional recruitment campaign has resulted in only 3 referrals to Sunderland, none of which progressed when followed up
- Lack of information provided by the NTS continues to make matching to homes extremely difficult and risky
- Cost and availability of interpreters
- Maintaining stability of homes- overwhelmingly children have a desire to be living in big cities predominantly Manchester or London and will try very hard to get there
- Increasing number of occasions of young people rejecting the home they are provided and these leading to planned and unplanned moves often at cost

Finding homes and funding

- Finance provided by the Home Office does not always cover the cost of the home sourced and they do not provide our funding in a timely manner. Current UASC Spend at P6 is forecast to be £2.970m, Home Office funding currently to be £1.520m – net pressure is £1.450m. Funding may increase once claims for 23/24 have been agreed by Home Office, to date Home Office has not reconciled any claims relating to 2023/24
- For the 40 children and young people we currently provide accommodation for, 1 is cared for with Independent Foster Carers, 10 are cared for in children's homes, 29 are living in supported accommodation. The current weekly cost of accommodation we provide for the 40 is £79,893
- We are currently developing a new accommodation offer which we feel will offer a more bespoke UASC experience at better value for money

Any Questions

