

## Issue 10

**We do not focus this e-bulletin on Coronavirus.** We have a page on our website that we are using to provide you with the latest information and updates on immigration due to Coronavirus and it can be accessed [here](#). Our website page aims to offer useful information and resources to help migrants, and those supporting them, to stay safe, connected and informed, and to reduce the harmful impacts of coronavirus (Covid-19) on our region and on people's lives. It also includes new multi-lingual resources, national guidance, local services and support, and news and updates on specific migrant issues.

If you have any updates, notifications or items for inclusion for our next bulletin please email [wmsmp@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:wmsmp@birmingham.gov.uk).

Subject	Announcement	Date /Source
Asylum	<p><b>Changes to asylum support payments</b></p> <p>The Minister for Immigration Compliance, Chris Philp MP, has <a href="#">confirmed changes</a> to asylum support payment following the completion of the Home Office's recent review.</p> <p>In summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The temporary asylum support increase from June 2020 will be made permanent with a very small increase - the support rate for people in dispersal accommodation will be £39.63 per week (a 3 pence increase from the June amount). This will require a statutory instrument in parliament.</li><li>• Those in full board accommodation (e.g. hotels) supported under section 95 or section 4(2) of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 will receive payments of £8 per week to cover clothing, travel and non-prescription medication</li><li>• Those who have been in full board accommodation will also get some backdated support:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ £3 per week for clothing needs will be backdated to either 27 March or the date on which someone was granted support, whichever date is later</li><li>○ £4.70 per week for travel needs will be backdated to 1 July or the date on which someone was granted support, whichever date is later</li><li>○ These backdated payments will be subject to reductions where accommodation providers have provided financial support</li></ul></li></ul> <p>Further details on the implementation of these measures are still awaited from the Home Office</p>	Gov Nov 2020

	<p>Right to Remain have produced a handy new <a href="#">video</a> on delays in asylum and immigration cases, explaining why they're happening, how long people are waiting, and what you can do.</p>	<p><b>Right to Remain Nov 2020</b></p>
	<p><b>Update on lockdown measures in England</b>          Following the new national lockdown in England, the Home Office <a href="#">has confirmed</a> that it will continue to operate regional intake units and that asylum interviews will continue with no changes to current procedures. They have also recently confirmed that <a href="#">in-person reporting</a> will continue for some people during lockdown.          Refugee Council are continuing to update their page <a href="#">Changes to Asylum &amp; Resettlement policy and practice in response to Covid-19</a> where you will be able to find any updates on changes due to the lockdown in England.</p>	<p><b>Gov Nov 2020</b></p>
	<p>Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration report – <b>an inspection of the Home Office’s to in country clandestine arrivals lorry drops and the irregular migrants.</b> <a href="#">Report here.</a>          The inspection examined the Home Office’s identification and handling of migrants first encountered away from a port of entry, having entered the UK concealed in a commercial vehicle, and those migrants seeking to cross the English Channel in ‘small boats’.</p>	<p><b>Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration 11<sup>th</sup> Nov 2020</b></p>
	<p>The <b>British Refugee Council</b> is excited to be leading a partnership project between the British Refugee Council, Scottish Refugee Council, Welsh Refugee Council and Bryson Care in Northern Ireland. We have been awarded a grant by the National Emergencies Trust (NET) to provide <b>support for refugees and people seeking asylum</b> during the pandemic until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.</p> <p>The grant will fund a national freephone Infoline to support refugees and people seeking asylum who have experienced hardship and mental ill health due to the Covid-19 outbreak. This freephone line will be delivered by all the partners except by Bryson Care in Northern Ireland. The infoline is to assist clients to access signposting support and information on where to turn and has been live since the 1<sup>st</sup> October.</p> <p>In addition to this, all partners have been funded to deliver other sub projects ranging from mental health support to employment guidance. Referrals and signposting can be made through the individual helplines to these projects where possible and appropriate.</p> <p>This is a short term project with a great deal to achieve but we are very excited to be delivering such a worthwhile project to our clients during a period of crisis. Please see attached a number of posters and translated material for the infoline in England. The posters also include the helpline numbers for Scotland and Wales.</p>	

	   <p>Infonline Frequently Asked Questions - FINAL Get Support Page with translation Council - support for</p>	
	<p><b>Migrant Voice</b> has compiled a great list of <a href="#">upcoming online events</a> on the topic of migration.</p>	<p><b>Migrant Voice Nov 2020</b></p>
<p><b>Refugees</b></p>	<p>Refugee Council have launched a <a href="#">new guide</a> to help refugees open bank accounts. The guide is available in English, Arabic, Farsi, Kurdish, Pashto and Tigrinya.</p>	<p><b>Refugee Council Nov 2020</b></p>
<p><b>NRPF</b></p>	<p><b>Locked In Abuse, Locked Out of Safety report</b> Safety 4 Sisters North West have released a powerful report, '<a href="#">Locked In Abuse, Locked Out of Safety</a>', which documents the experiences of migrant women without recourse to public funds through the course of the pandemic. The report finds that, at odds with the national 'Everyone In' policy, women have faced significant challenges in accessing essential services and securing safe accommodation, with initial refusals for refuge spaces opening them up to new risks, and on some occasions leaving women and their children in high risk situations with violent perpetrators. The report makes a number of important recommendations at both a policy level, including the removal of the NRPF condition and inclusion of migrant women in the Domestic Abuse Bill, and at a service level, including around training for key service providers on the intersection between the NRPF condition and domestic abuse.</p>	<p><b>Safety 4 Sisters Nov 2020</b></p>
<p><b>UASC, Children and Young People</b></p>	<p><b>UKVI Piloting Devolved Decision Making for Child Victims of Modern Slavery - Launch 10/11/20</b> As part of the NRM Transformation Programme, the Modern Slavery Unit have been considering an alternative model for decision making for children and they have asked us to help share the message below. To note that competition will be open to all Local Authorities in the UK who have responsibility for children's social care;</p> <p><b>The Home Office has now launched a competed grants process</b> to award funding to empower local authorities with responsibility for children's social care to make decisions about whether children are victims of modern slavery in conjunction with local safeguarding partners. Prospective bidders can access this <a href="https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/f53cad88-b16b-47f2-8de2-613a14a06a9e">https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/f53cad88-b16b-47f2-8de2-613a14a06a9e</a></p> <p>The profiles of child victims are changing, with UK national children being the fastest growing group in the NRM, in part driven by county lines activity. As the system currently stands support for child victims of modern slavery is provided by local authorities under existing statutory obligations. The aim of the pilots is to test whether determining if a child is a victim of modern slavery within existing safeguarding structures is ensures better alignment with the provision of local, needs-based support and any law enforcement response.</p>	<p><b>Home Office 10<sup>th</sup> Nov 2020</b></p>

	<p>The funding available, and the support provided by the Home Office, will enable local authorities to develop appropriate processes that enable decisions about potential child victims of modern slavery to be taken at a local level by appropriate multi-agency partners. The opportunity to take part in this pilot is open to all local authorities in the United Kingdom which are responsible for children’s social care.</p> <p>We would appreciate if Strategic Migration Partnerships (SMP) leads and Local Authority contacts who receive this e-mail could share with those Authorities who have who have responsibility for children’s social care to ensure the message has been cascaded and received across all networks.</p> <p>For further information please contact <a href="mailto:NRMtransformation@homeoffice.gov.uk">NRMtransformation@homeoffice.gov.uk</a></p>	
<p><b>EUSS</b></p>	<p><b>Discover EUSS support in your area – postcode checker tool now live</b></p> <p>After the successful launch of the Grant Funded Network for 2020-2021 last month, a new support service postcode checker is now live: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/help-eu-settlement-scheme">https://www.gov.uk/help-eu-settlement-scheme</a></p> <p>This service allows users to find local charities and organisations who can provide a wide range of support for those most vulnerable and at-risk.</p>	<p><b>Home Office Nov 2020</b></p>
	<p><b>EU Settlement Scheme – Home Office Looked After Children and Care Leavers Survey, 2020</b></p> <p>From 10 July to 30 October 2020, the Home Office undertook a survey of Local Authorities in England, Wales and Scotland and of Health and Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland to provide a more <b>accurate estimate of the numbers of looked after children and care leavers eligible to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme.</b></p> <p>This publication provides a high-level summary of figures drawn from the survey data collected.</p> <p>Read more <a href="#">here</a>.</p>	<p><b>Home Office 30 Nov 2020</b></p>
	<p>The Migration Team at Coventry City Council has secured funding, alongside Coventry Law Centre, to deliver the <b>EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) to support vulnerable EEA citizens</b> to make an application for settled or pre-settled status.</p> <p>The scheme is an important piece of work to ensure EEA residents remain in the UK lawfully. For those who <i>don’t</i> make an application, new rules include a points-based immigration system <i>or</i> a possible No Recourse to Public Funds restriction.</p> <p>To raise awareness of the Coventry EUSS and upskill key organisations who may encounter EEA nationals in their work, <i>I would like to offer information, support or training, according to individual needs such as:</i></p>	<p><b>Coventry City Council Nov 2020</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tailored training so organisations are empowered with key information, facts and can refer directly to the project for support or to access services</li> <li>Provide posters/factsheets/FAQs (in English and various translated EEA languages) for distribution</li> <li>Introduce key components of the Coventry EU Settlement Scheme, outline the services provided- we are flexible in that we are happy to do this for a few minutes or longer</li> </ul> <p>FREE independent, confidential advice, support and services we offer, provided by Coventry Law Centre, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Application support and advice</li> <li>Document retrieval, evidencing residency etc.</li> <li>Support in accessing services</li> <li>Legal advice</li> <li>Information sessions</li> <li>Digital Support</li> </ul> <p>If you have any further questions or would like to access any of the outlined services above, please contact: Email: <a href="mailto:CoventryEUSS@coventry.gov.uk">CoventryEUSS@coventry.gov.uk</a> Telephone (Wednesdays and Fridays): 07507 726 526</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">               Coventry EUSS Poster.pdf         </div> <div style="text-align: center;">               Coventry EUSS FAQs.pdf         </div> </div>	
<p><b>Health and Wellbeing</b></p>	<p><b>UK immigration system blamed for high level of alcohol problems among refugees – <a href="#">a report available to buy</a></b> Poverty, social isolation, and boredom among refugees and asylum seekers in the UK are major factors contributing to their abuse of alcohol, a study has found.<sup>1</sup> The research is based on interviews with 20 refugees and asylum seekers in Scotland and the north of England and found that alcohol is used as a cheap and readily available means to cope with stress and mental ill health linked to the difficulties in dealing with the UK’s immigration system. Although it is a small study, the authors said it provides important information on a sparsely researched topic.</p>	<p><b>BMJ Nov 2020</b></p>
	<p><b>Maternity Action</b> are running two free webinars:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Introduction to NHS charging regulations for maternity care in England.</b> The webinar will be held on Thursday, 12th of November between 10 - 11 am and is for advisers outside of London working with migrant women who are pregnant or new mothers and who may be vulnerable due to persecution, violence or exploitation. You can register for the training <a href="#">here</a>.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Maternity Action Nov 2020</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Introduction to Home Office Support for asylum seekers and refused asylum seekers.</b> This is for organisations outside of London particularly those working with migrant women who are pregnant or new mothers and who may be vulnerable due to persecution, violence or exploitation. The webinar will be held on Tuesday, 17th of November 2-3 pm. You can register <a href="#">here</a>.</li> </ul>	
<b>Rough sleeping and evictions</b>	<p>The housing rights website has information on some changes relating to rough sleeping and evictions and how they relate to migrants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From December 1, rough sleeping will be a reason for refusing leave to remain (see first item on the <a href="#">What's New page</a>). CIH and other bodies are <a href="#">protesting about this</a>.</li> <li>New guidance for landlords and on evictions has been published, and details are on the <a href="#">coronavirus page</a>.</li> <li>Extra money was announced on Nov 6 for local authorities to accommodate people who are rough sleeping – see the coronavirus page.</li> </ul> <p>Big changes in entitlements to housing and benefits will follow in the new year as the detailed rules after the EU transition period take effect. Follow developments on the website and through the <a href="#">quarterly newsletters</a>.</p>	<b>Chartered Institute for Housing</b> <b>7<sup>th</sup> Nov 2020</b>
<b>Resettlement</b>	<p><b>Communities for Refugees Campaign</b></p> <p>This campaign, launched in October asks people to sign up to sponsor a refugee family when resettlement flights restart. They are aiming to get 5000 people to make the pledge. This is to indicate to the Government that there is strong support for Community Sponsorship and refugee resettlement in general. You can access Communities for Refugees via: <a href="http://www.communitysponsorship.org.uk">www.communitysponsorship.org.uk</a>. You can access campaign materials <a href="#">here</a>.</p>	<b>RESET</b> <b>30<sup>th</sup> Oct 2020</b>
	<p><b>UNHCR has released the report 'Safer and Stronger'</b> based on the findings of a participatory assessment with refugee women resettled to the UK. The research was carried out by UNHCR between July and October 2019. A total of 143 adult refugee women living in the UK and resettled under the VPRS, VCRS and Gateway Protection Programme were interviewed. Access the report <a href="#">here</a>.</p>	<b>UNHCR</b> <b>7<sup>th</sup> Aug 2020</b>
	<p><b>ICIBI - An inspection of UK Refugee Resettlement Scheme.</b> <b>Inspection</b> report and Home Office Response published. The inspection looked at how the various long-running resettlement schemes had performed up to March 2020, and what lessons the Home Office should be taking forward into any new scheme. Report and response available <a href="#">here</a>.</p>	<b>ICIBI</b> <b>11<sup>th</sup> Nov 2020</b>
<b>Trafficking and Human Slavery</b>	<p><i>Below is a message from Kathy Betteridge (The Director of Anti-Trafficking &amp; Modern Slavery at the Salvation Army).</i></p> <p><i>We have noticed that many organisations signposting people to help for victims of modern slavery and human trafficking on their websites and other communications, have still not updated The Salvation Army's referral helpline number to the new 0800 number, or in many cases do not include The Salvation Army's information at all. This includes local partnerships where The Salvation Army is listed as a partner.</i></p> <p><i>Could you please check what information is being published on your organisation's website and include the correct details</i></p>	<b>Salvation Army</b> <b>10<sup>th</sup> Nov 2020</b>

	<p><i>about how to refer people to our service? We would be very grateful if you could cascade this request to everyone in your internal networks as well to ask them to do the same.</i></p> <p><i>Ideally we would like organisations to include the following wording:</i></p> <p><b><i>If you suspect that you or someone you have come across may be an adult victim of modern slavery and in need of help, please contact The Salvation Army's confidential and anonymous referral helpline on 0800 808 3733 – available 365 days a year, 24/7 with interpretation services where needed.</i></b></p>	
	<p><b>Cultural Awareness Sessions</b></p> <p>The West Midlands Anti Slavery Network SafePlace is a safehouse for male survivors of human trafficking and modern slavery. The SafePlace team are interested in organising information sessions with cultural organisations to gain an understanding of cultures and social groups that are not our own. If your organisation has specialist knowledge of a cultural or social group and you are interested in providing a cultural awareness session to WMASN please get in touch. In exchange for your time the <b>West Midlands Anti Slavery Network will provide participating organisations with an information session on human trafficking and modern slavery.</b></p> <p>Click <a href="#">here</a> to read more about what you can offer and how to offer it!</p>	<p><b>WMASN 10<sup>th</sup> Nov 2020</b></p>
<p><b>The Windrush Compensation Scheme</b></p>	<p><b>Home Affairs Committee New inquiry: The Windrush Compensation Scheme</b></p> <p>The Home Affairs Committee has launched a new inquiry into the Windrush Compensation Scheme. The new inquiry will examine the design and implementation of compensation processes and the support that is provided to individuals through the 'Windrush Scheme: support in exceptional circumstances' policy. It aims to understand whether these schemes are operating effectively for people who apply and whether changes are needed so that people who apply feel their applications have been considered fairly and swiftly. It would also like to know what the Home Office can do to provide better support to anyone who applies to the scheme.</p> <p>The Home Office estimated the overall cost of the Windrush Compensation Scheme to be between £90 million and £250 million, based on a planning assumption of 11,500 eligible claims. However, as at the end of September 2020, 1,587 applications had been received and £1,619,291.42 had been paid to 196 claims. The Home Office's Comprehensive Improvement Plan, drawn up in response to the Windrush Lessons Learned Review, says that a further £1.2 million had been offered to individuals and was either awaiting acceptance or pending a review. The Home Secretary has written to the Committee to say that, at the end of March 2020, 35 of the 142 requests for an urgent and exceptional payment had been</p>	<p><b>Home Affairs Select Committee Nov 2020</b></p>

	<p>approved, with payments totalling £46,796.08.          Launching the inquiry, Chair of the Home Affairs Committee Rt Hon Yvette Cooper said:</p> <p>“It has been two and a half years since the Home Affairs Committee called for a Compensation Scheme to recognise the financial loss and emotional distress experienced by those who were affected by the Windrush scandal and we welcomed the Government decision to establish a compensation scheme over a year ago.</p> <p>“But we are deeply concerned by the delays and various problems that have been raised around the scheme. We have already heard from many people who have experienced serious delays or have had very difficult experiences in applying for compensation, and the latest reports of concerns being raised by those working on the scheme are very troubling.</p> <p>The Home Affairs Committee wants to hear your views. Find out how to submit evidence to this inquiry <a href="#">here</a>. The deadline for submission is Wednesday 16 December.</p>	
<p><b>Vacancies</b></p>	<p><b>The Refugee, Asylum and Migration Policy Project (RAMP)</b> are recruiting for a new refugee, asylum and migration policy adviser to the Bishop of Durham, based in the House of Lords, working 1 day per week. Full details can be found on their <a href="#">website</a>, with a deadline of 16th November.</p> <p><b>City of Sanctuary UK</b> are recruiting for a <a href="#">Schools of Sanctuary Support Officer</a>. The deadline for applications is Friday 13th November.</p> <p><b>RefuAid</b> are recruiting for a <a href="#">Candidate Resourcer and Admissions Officer</a>. The deadline for applications is Friday 13th November.</p> <p><b>Action Foundation</b> are recruiting for an <a href="#">InterAction Project Manager</a>. The deadline for applications is midnight on Sunday 29th November.</p> <p><b>IMIX</b>          IMIX are looking for a strategic communications expert to join the team and lead our framing and messaging work. Your main priority will be supporting people with lived experience and frontline groups working with people seeking asylum to change the narrative around ‘migrant crossings’. The project is ambitious and much needed. You’ll have the support of a small but supportive and dynamic team. If you’re a communications expert with excellent project management and relationship building skills we want to hear from you. We’re particularly keen to hear from people with lived experience of migration.  <a href="https://imix.org.uk/apply-to-be-the-imix-strategic-communications-manager/">https://imix.org.uk/apply-to-be-the-imix-strategic-communications-manager/</a></p>	
<p><b>WMSMP update</b></p>	<p>From 20<sup>th</sup> November, I ( Rachel Thomas, WMSMP Assistant Policy Officer) will be going on maternity leave.          Thanks for all your input and support! Take care!</p>	

# e-Bulletin



The West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership works with national, regional and local partners to ensure that the region can deal with, and benefit from, migration. We are hosted by Birmingham City Council.

*We would like to thank you for all contributions to this bulletin. Information in this bulletin and any references or links to external sources or agencies do not necessarily reflect the views of West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership nor receive its endorsement. WMSMP is not responsible for the accuracy of this information which is intended as a general guide only. If you would like to be removed from the distribution list, please email [WMSMP@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:WMSMP@birmingham.gov.uk).*