

## Issue 4

**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@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:wmsmp@wolverhampton.gov.uk)

Subject	Announcement	Date /Source
Asylum	<p><b>New Plan for Immigration Consultation:</b></p> <p>The <a href="#">New Plan for Immigration</a> policy paper sets out the government's intentions to build a fair but firm asylum and illegal migration system. This consultation closes at <b>11:45pm on 6 May 2021</b>.</p> <p>The consultation period lasts 6 weeks and closes on 6 May. There are 45 questions. Respondents are expected to register <a href="#">online</a>; this is the only way to view the consultation questions and the information sheet in the Annex regarding family reunion for unaccompanied asylum seeking children. However, it is also possible to complete the consultation in another format such as email or by letter. We encourage all affected organisations and individuals in the West Midlands to submit their own response to this consultation. The West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership will respond to the consultation, engaging with relevant stakeholders to feed into that response.</p>	GOV.UK 24 March 2021
	<p><b>Asylum Support:</b></p> <p><a href="#">Asylum Support podcasts</a> explore recent cases which have shaped the current landscape with regards to section 4 eligibility.</p>	ASAP April 2021

Citizenship & Immigration	<p><b>Welcome: a guide for Hong Kong British National (Overseas) visa holders in the UK:</b></p> <p>A <a href="#">guide</a> for adults and dependents who have been granted leave on the new British National (Overseas) visa to access public services and make the most of the opportunities in the UK.</p>	<p>GOV.UK 8 April 2021</p>
	<p><b>Hong Kong UK welcome programme – guidance for local authorities:</b></p> <p>This <a href="#">guidance</a> provides information for local authorities and others who are working with British National (Overseas) (BN(O)) status holders arriving from Hong Kong via the UK Government’s Hong Kong BN(O) visa route.</p>	<p>GOV.UK 8 April 2021</p>
	<p><b>Current Immigration Rules:</b></p> <p>The Immigration Rules are some of the most important pieces of legislation that make up the UK’s immigration law. They are updated on a regular basis and all changes can be found in the <a href="#">Immigration Rules: statement of changes</a>.</p>	<p>GOV.UK 7 April 2021</p>
	<p><b>Windrush Engagement Events:</b></p> <p>Online engagement events are organised to help you find out more about the Windrush Scheme and Windrush Compensation Scheme. For more details of events on Windrush, please see this <a href="#">link</a>.</p>	<p>GOV.UK 7 April 2021</p>
	<p><b>Apply for the Windrush Community Fund:</b></p> <p>The Windrush Community Fund is up to £500,000 of financial support available to charity, community or grassroots organisations across the UK to fund projects which raise awareness of the <a href="#">Windrush Scheme (documentation)</a>, the <a href="#">Windrush Compensation Scheme</a> or both.</p> <p>This support is available to fund activities across the UK. Awards range from a minimum of £2,500 to a maximum of £25,000. <a href="#">Voice4Change England</a> (V4CE) oversee the Windrush Community Fund application process. They process applications and respond to enquiries about the application process.</p> <p>The processed applications are referred to the <a href="#">Windrush Cross-Government Working Group</a> and the Home Office, who make the final decisions on funding.</p>	<p>GOV.UK 27 April 2021</p>

	<p><b>COVID-19 pandemic has reduced UK immigration across all main routes in 2020:</b></p> <p>The <a href="#">Migration Observatory</a> reports that last year saw a significant fall in asylum applications and lower grants of visas for work, family or study. Work visas issued fell by 35% from 2019 to 2020, family-related visas fell by 28%, and study visas by 37% (including shortterm study). Applications for asylum were down 21% compared to 2019, including both main applicants and dependents. On the basis of the available statistics, close to one million migrants appear to have left the UK during the pandemic. However, as the Migration Observatory also reports, the evidence is unclear, with some data sources having been halted temporarily and others providing conflicting results. It will take time to establish what really happened and how permanent any changes are.</p>	<p><b>Migration Observatory February 2021</b></p>
<p><b>Children and Young People including UASC</b></p>	<p><b>Home Office fee for a child to register as a British citizen declared unlawful:</b></p> <p>The court of appeal has upheld the high court’s ruling that the £1,012 fee for a child to register as a British citizen is unlawful because it is set without consideration of the best interests of children. For further information, including an FAQs document for people who may be affected by this decision, see the information from the <a href="#">Project for the Registration of Children as British Citizens</a> which brought the case against the Home Office.</p>	<p><b>PRCBC April 2021</b></p>
<p><b>EUSS</b></p>	<p><b>EUSS Guidance:</b></p> <p>Councils are playing a key role working with local partners and communities in raising awareness of the 30 June deadline for applications to the <a href="#">EU Settlement Scheme</a>. Updated guidance on the scheme now includes <a href="#">guidance for reasonable grounds for late applications</a>. Along with <a href="#">resources aimed at older EU, EEA and Swiss citizens</a> and their carers, family members and friends, the Home Office recently announced a further £4.5million of funding to four organisations primarily focused on working with vulnerable people resident in care homes, including the Association of Adult Social Services (ADASS). The Home Office has also recently completed a follow-up audit for local authorities supporting looked after children through the scheme to understand the numbers of children and barriers to apply, with a series of webinars for social workers and other staff to follow.</p>	<p><b>GOV.UK April</b></p>
	<p><b>EU residence documents are no longer valid after 30 June 2021:</b></p> <p>Although the UK left the European Union on 31 January 2020 and the post-Brexit transition period came to an end on 31 December 2020, certain aspects of EU free movement law continue to apply into 2021 — <a href="#">but not for much longer</a>. Old EU residence documents such as permanent residence cards, UK residence cards and derivative residence cards continue to be valid only until 30 June 2021, when this “<a href="#">grace period</a>” comes to an end.</p>	<p><b>Free Movement 30 March 2021</b></p>

	<p><b>EU Settlement Scheme: Family and Travel Permits:</b></p> <p><u>Guidance</u> on how to assess and decide applications for EU Settlement Scheme family and travel permits.</p>	<p>GOV.UK 5 April 2021</p>
	<p><b>EU Settlement Scheme: community support for vulnerable citizens:</b></p> <p>This <u>link</u> provides an up-to-date and comprehensive list of organisations that provide support to vulnerable citizens who are applying for the EUSS scheme.</p>	<p>GOV.UK 8 April 2021</p>
	<p><b>EU Settlement Scheme Statistics:</b></p> <p>The <u>latest</u> headline figures, derived from internal management information show that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall, the total number of applications received up to 31 March 2021 was 5,301,500.</li> <li>• Overall, the total number of applications concluded up to 31 March 2021 was 4,977,700.</li> </ul>	<p>GOV.UK 15 April 2021</p>
Health and Wellbeing	<p><b>Modern Slavery Victims: referral:</b></p> <p><u>Guidance</u> on referring potential victims of modern slavery/human trafficking to the national referral mechanism.</p>	<p>GOV.UK 19 April 2021</p>
Rough sleeping and evictions	<p><b>Grounds for Refusal: Rough Sleeping:</b></p> <p>This <u>guidance</u> tells you when an application for permission to stay may be refused, or any permission held may be cancelled on the grounds of rough sleeping in the UK. The guidance does not apply to applicants who have been granted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• pre-settled or settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS), or applicants eligible for the EUSS.</li> <li>• indefinite leave.</li> <li>• leave under a protection route (for example as a refugee or on the grounds of human rights or for humanitarian protection).</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<p>GOV.UK 20 April 2021</p>
WMSMP Updates	<p><b>WMSMP:</b></p> <p>The WMSMP are delighted to announce that Lynn Evans have joined the team as our new UASC Policy Officer on an interim basis. Lynn’s new contact details are as follows:</p>	<p>WMSMP April</p>

	E-mail: <a href="mailto:Lynn.evans@wolverhampton.gov.uk">Lynn.evans@wolverhampton.gov.uk</a>	
	<b>Refugee Week:</b>  On the 14-20 June it is Refugee Week. As part of this, the WMSMP are trying to gather a list of events that are taking place across the country. If your organisation is holding an event, or know of any other events that are taking place, could you please e-mail us at <a href="mailto:wmsmp@wolverhampton.gov.uk">wmsmp@wolverhampton.gov.uk</a> and we will help promote the event across the West Midlands.	<b>WMSMP April</b>

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 Wolverhampton 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.*