

# NRPF Connect – Annual data report 2021-2022: local authority support for people with no recourse to public funds (NRPF)

## Introduction

NRPF Connect is the national database for councils to record details of households with no recourse to public funds that are being provided with accommodation and/or financial support by social services.

This report is based on an analysis of the collective data provided by 72 councils that were using the database during the financial year 2021-2022.

The data continues to demonstrate that councils in England and Scotland play an essential role in safeguarding the welfare of destitute families, care leavers and adults with care needs, who are excluded from mainstream benefits due to their immigration status. As in 2020-2021, the data reflects the significant financial impact on councils when providing required financial support to people who do not have access to benefits and who also have complex immigration cases that need to be resolved. Routes out-of-support are being achieved through specialist casework interventions, with many people obtaining leave to remain, but the time taken to achieve this outcome is increasing.

The 2021-2022 data report presents the headline figures nationally and regionally with an analysis of the trends. Recommendations to help reduce cost pressures on local government and to improve service planning are informed by the current dataset and build on the recommendations made following the [2020-2021 data report](#).

## Headline data

### Supported households and costs

3423 households with no recourse to public funds were provided with accommodation and financial support by 72 councils at a collective annual cost of £64 million.

The 3423 households comprised of:

- 1650 families, with 2903 dependants, supported by 69 councils at an annual cost of £28.3 million.
- 826 adults with care needs, supported by 46 councils at an annual cost of £15.2 million.
- 947 looked after children and care leavers, supported by 33 councils, at an annual cost of £20.4 million.

### Referrals/requests for support

- 5781 requests or referrals for support were recorded throughout the year, a minimal increase on the 5758 recorded in 2020-2021.
- Of the families requesting support, 25% had an EEA immigration status or nationality (compared to 15% in 2020-21), 23% had no current immigration permission (compared to 31% in 2020-21) and 18% had a form of Leave to Remain that was subject to the 'No Recourse to Public Funds' (NRPF) condition (compared to 22% in 2020-21).
- Of the adults requesting support, 35% had an EEA immigration status or nationality (compared to 28% in 2020-21), 25% had no current immigration permission (compared with 29% in 2020-2021) and 9% had a form of Leave to Remain that was subject to the 'No Recourse to Public Funds' (NRPF) condition (no change compared to 2020-2021).

### **Time on support**

- Families received support for an average period of 598 days (1.6 years) and adults with care needs received support an average of 993 days (2.7 years). Average time on support is higher than in 2020-2021 when the average period on support was 589 days for families and 911 days for adults.
- For households where the parent or adult has no current immigration permission or has Leave to Remain subject to the NRPF condition, 17% of families and 35% of adults with care needs had been supported for over 1000 days.

### **Reasons for case closure/ exiting support**

Of the 1210 family households that had their support withdrawn and case closed:

- 83% exited support following a grant of Leave to Remain or a change in immigration status that allows access to public funds (71% on a non-EEA-route, 12% on an EEA route including being granted status under the EU Settlement Scheme).
- 2% left the UK

Of the 355 adult households that had their support withdrawn and case closed:

- 60% exited support following a grant of Leave to Remain or a change in immigration status that allows access to public funds (44% on a non-EEA-route, 16% on an EEA route including being granted status under the EU Settlement Scheme).
- 7% left the UK.

## **Analysis**

The overall increase in caseload that was seen in 2020-2021 during the Covid-19 pandemic was not repeated in 2021-2022; the number of referrals remained comparable and a marginal reduction (1%) in the total number of family households was achieved. Data comparisons at a national level reveal a diverse caseload in terms of people's immigration

status and that different areas of the UK face different challenges dependant on the immigration status of the people they support. There is also variability between local authorities' use of the database and a likelihood that reported costs would be higher should more councils use NRPF Connect to record caseloads.

Despite a period of relative stability in 2021-2022, the overall financial burden of accommodation and subsistence provision for local authorities remains significant and will not abate as the cost-of-living crisis takes hold and presentations from people at risk of homelessness and / or destitution continue. Challenges within the asylum support system relating to delayed decision-making and use of large-scale contingency accommodation may also increase referrals locally or divert Home Office resources away from the resolution of local authority supported cases.

In 2021-2022, people with a European Economic Area (EEA) status or EEA nationality became the largest group referred to councils for assistance and the proportion in receipt of financial support has also risen. The absence of automatic entitlement to benefits for vulnerable EEA nationals with 'pre-settled' status under the EU Settlement Scheme leads to unavoidable accommodation and subsistence costs when safeguarding duties to alleviate destitution are engaged. As predicted by the NRPF Network in 2020-2021, commitments made by the UK Government to protect the future rights of EEA citizens are not translating into protections for very vulnerable groups, with councils absorbing the cost.

Families with Leave to Remain (LTR) with NRPF again represented a significant percentage of the total number of referrals to children's services (18%). The fact that a smaller percentage (9%) of families with LTR with NRPF remained in receipt of financial support at year-end can be attributed to the 'change of condition' process that, in some cases, enables a route to benefits. Destitute families – usually on a 10-year route to settlement and often caring for British citizen children - continue to be referred to social services, a regrettable symptom of hardships faced by families excluded from the basic protection of welfare assistance.

Quite apart from working with people who have no immigration status in the UK, considerable effort, time and resource are spent responding to the needs of people lawfully present in the UK. Difficulties arise because of the 'no recourse to public funds' condition, but also on account of administrative difficulties faced when renewing a form of temporary leave granted, which may explain the 22% referral rate for families who already had Leave to Remain 'with recourse'.

The average time (in days) that adult and family cases remained on local authority support was higher at the end of 2021-2022 than at the end of the previous financial year. The proportion of households who had been receiving support for longer than 1000 days and are 'unresolved' remained at 35% for adult cases and 17% for families. Even when people are assisted to access immigration advice and submit applications to the Home Office, it can take time for such cases to be decided by the Home Office or in the courts. Most families (83%) and adults (60%) exited support due to a grant of Leave to Remain or change in immigration status granting recourse to public funds (i.e. benefits and housing),

with the numbers returning to their country of origin or leaving the UK remaining low. Despite many households being in 'breach of immigration law' and caught by the exclusions to support under Schedule 3 Nationality Immigration and Asylum Act 2002, continued assistance from councils will be necessary whilst applications made to the Home Office are being determined.

Whereas the number of families and adults with care and support needs being recorded on NRPF Connect remained relatively constant over the year, the number of looked-after children and care leavers added to the database significantly increased. As councils work to support increasing numbers of children and care leavers through the immigration or asylum process and face long waits for asylum decisions, numbers of cases recorded on NRPF Connect will remain high.

Over the course of 2021-2022, the Home Office responded to over 15,000 requests for status information and updates / changes of circumstances. Following the recommendations made in 2020-2021, the staffing establishment of the Home Office team operating NRPF Connect was increased and this has been a positive step towards achieving Service Level Agreement (SLA) compliant response-times. Informed and expedited information about immigration status remains essential to the effective delivery of council services and helps inform case-work practice to resolve cases.

## Recommendations for government

The recommendations for government made following the [2020-2021 data report](#) focus on practical steps that can be taken to ease pressures on local authorities and are made in addition to the calls for change made in 2021.

**1. Reimburse councils when providing financial support to vulnerable people with 'pre-settled status' or deliver a mechanism whereby adults who require additional support due to age, illness or disabilities can apply for settled status before 5 years of residency is achieved.**

The legality of the UK's position that pre-settled status holders with no other qualifying right to reside (such as worker, self-employed, student) cannot access Universal Credit has been confirmed by the [Supreme Court in Fratila \(and others\) v the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions](#). Councils must now be reimbursed for the cost-shunt caused when statutory safeguarding interventions for people with 'pre-settled status' necessitate accommodation and subsistence provision to prevent homelessness and / or destitution. In some cases, people may never achieve a 'qualifying right' for benefit purposes and will be reliant on council support until 5-years' residency has been reached; solutions to relieve financial pressures for councils must be found.

**2. Ensure future residency rights are fully protected under the EU Settlement Scheme including when people need to upgrade from 'pre-settled' to 'settled' status after 5 years' residency in the UK.**

Pressures are being created for councils because of changes to EEA residency rights following the UK's departure from the European Union. EEA citizens may now be subject to the 'no recourse to public funds' condition and are at risk of being deemed in breach of immigration law if staying without the correct permissions. Referrals will also be driven by people who are making applications under the EU Settlement Scheme but may not have an entitlement to benefits whilst the application is made or being decided. The government must take action to ensure that people with pre-settled status obtain Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) and do not end-up in breach of immigration law thereby adding to existing demand for council interventions.

### **3. Deliver an exceptional case-resolution response for the 1000-day cases and for adults with complex care and support needs where return to country of origin cannot be achieved.**

Raised in 2020-2021, the NRPF Network again calls for exceptional casework responses to resolve long-standing and exceptional cases and to reduce the duration of time-on-support per-household, the following is required:

- An audit of the 1000-day cases to determine what additional measures can be taken to prioritise these cases that have already received considerable financial support from local authorities.
- A policy solution for adults with complex care and support needs where it is determined through statutory assessments and the obtaining of immigration advice that neither a return to country of origin nor a route to regularisation under the immigration rules can be achieved.

### **4. The government must renew its commitment to support local authorities in this area of practice and invest in the casework responses that help move cases to a conclusion whilst not creating new NRPF categories.**

The NRPF Network welcomes the action taken to stabilise the staffing establishment of the NRPF Connect team and other measures to help local authorities manage caseloads, but without policy and funding changes pressures for councils will grow and Home Office resourcing of this response must keep pace.

Following the introduction of the Nationality and Borders Act 2022, councils also urge the government not to implement changes that would increase use of the NRPF condition or create new administrative complexities for the Home Office. It is important instead to focus on clearing current decision-making backlogs at a time when costs for councils because of the NRPF condition remain high.

Even when people are granted a form of immigration status that permits recourse to public funds, delays transitioning to benefits can be encountered as a result of people not having a National Insurance number, a matter also raised in 2021. The NRPF Network recommends

that the government ensures that National Insurance numbers are issued to people who require this them immediately when leave to remain is granted.

**5. Widen access to discretionary support measures that help people cope with the cost-of-living crisis and other emergencies, so that people with NRPF are not more disadvantaged than other low-income households.**

The data reported on NRPF Connect reflects the ‘tip of the iceberg’ of need in communities, with referrals to social services only generated when all other community support is exhausted and crisis point is reached. Extending free school meal entitlement to all low-income households and ensuring access to 15 hours per week free childcare for all disadvantaged two-year-olds are welcome developments. Too often, however, access to other government initiatives to ease pressures are still being determined by whether people can access means-tested benefits.

The government should continue the work started in 2021 by removing discretionary welfare payments administered by councils from the list of public funds and to support the fair distribution of government grants to all disadvantaged residents. Other relief measures that are not public funds, such as the Warm Homes Discount Scheme, should be made available to people who cannot access means-tested benefits but are nevertheless on low income.

## Recommendations for local government

The recommendations for local government made following the [2020-2021 data report](#) remain valid today and should be implemented. The following supplementary recommendations are made:

1. Prepare for continuing cost-pressures and presentations in the absence of policy or funding changes and because the provision of essential 'safety-net' support remains essential to reducing homelessness and destitution.
2. Make responding to the needs of residents facing benefit restrictions part of a 'business as usual' response across housing, NHS and adult social care teams with assessment, review and case-management responsibilities defined.
3. Use NRPF Connect to evidence support provided and to benefit from the assistance of the Home Office and the NRPF Network to manage identified cases as effectively and efficiently as possible.
4. Maximise use of NRPF Connect within adult social services departments, noting that only 46 councils out of 72 participating councils are providing data for adults with care and support needs, which may represent an under-reporting of need.
5. Review the 1000-day cases that are now clearly counted on the home page of the database and consider what additional action can be taken to close these cases or [get in touch](#) to share experiences about the challenges faced.

## National data

### **Overall costs and households receiving support (as of 31 March 2022)**

72 councils in England and Scotland were providing 3423 households with accommodation and/or financial support at a collective annual cost of £64 million.

The 3423 households comprised of:

- 1650 families, with 2903 dependants, supported by 69 councils at an annual cost of £28.3 million.
- 826 adults with care needs, supported by 46 councils at an annual cost of £15.2 million.
- 947 looked after children and care leavers, supported by 33 councils, at an annual cost of £20.4 million.

From the end of quarter 1 to the end of quarter 4, the total number of households receiving financial support increased by 0.44%, a minimal increase compared to the 17% recorded over the same period in 2020-2021.

Of the 1576 family households with immigration status recorded:

- 41% had no current immigration permission, including visa overstayers
- 20% had a European Economic Area (EEA) status recorded or had EEA nationality (including 130 families confirmed as having pre-settled status)
- 15% had leave to remain with recourse to public funds and are likely to be in the process of transferring to mainstream benefits and housing services
- 14% had an asylum claim recorded
- 9% had leave to remain subject to the 'No Recourse to Public Funds' (NRPF) condition
- 1% were confirmed as British citizens

Analysis of immigration status for families (above) is based on the status of the lead adult for the household but recorded nationality for dependants indicates that 26% of all family households are caring for at least one child who is British.

Of the 782 adult households with immigration status recorded:

- 38% had no current immigration permission
- 26% had an asylum claim recorded
- 23% had a European Economic Area (EEA) status recorded or had EEA nationality (including 45 adults confirmed as having pre-settled status)
- 5% had leave to remain subject to the NRPF condition
- 8% had recourse to public funds and are likely to be in the process of transferring to mainstream benefits and housing services

### **Referrals (April 2021 – March 2022)**

5781 households requesting or referred for support were added to the database during the year, compared to 5758 in 2020-2021.

The 5781 households comprised of:

- 3024 families (compared to 3273 in 2020-2021)
- 1819 adults with care needs (compared to 1818 in 2020-2021)
- 938 looked after children and care leavers (compared to 677 in 2020-2021)

25% of family households that were referred for support had a European Economic Area (EEA) status recorded or had EEA nationality, 23% had no current immigration status and 18% had a form of leave to remain that was subject to the NRPF Condition. 24% of family households referred had at least one child who is recorded as British.

35% of adult households that were referred for support has a European Economic Area (EEA) status recorded or had EEA nationality, 25% of adult households that were referred for support had no current immigration status.

2021-2022 is the first year in which people with an EEA status recorded or have EEA nationality comprise the largest proportion of households being referred for support or assistance.



## **Time on support and closure reasons (open cases as of 31 March 2022 )**

The average number of days that a family household was supported for was 598 days (up from 589 days in 2020-21).

The average number of days that an adult household was supported for was 993 days (up from 911 days in 2020-21).

A household that remains in receipt of accommodation and subsistence support is classed as 'unresolved' where a parent or adult does not have an EEA status or nationality and has no current immigration permission or has leave to remain subject to the NRPF condition. The following proportions of 'unresolved' households received support for longer than 1000 days:

- 17% of families (176 of 1006)
- 35% of adults (190 of 541)

Of the 1210 family households that had their support withdrawn and case closed:

- 83% exited support following a grant of leave to remain or a change in immigration status or circumstances that allows access to public funds (71% on a non-EEA route and 12% on an EEA route, including being granted status under the EU Settlement Scheme).
- 2% returned to their country of origin or left the UK

Of the 355 adult households that had their support withdrawn and case closed:

- 60% exited support following a grant of leave to remain or a change in immigration status or circumstances that allows access to public funds (44% on a non-EEA route and 16% on an EEA route, including being granted status under the EU Settlement Scheme).
- 7% returned to their country of origin or left the UK

## **Looked after children and care leavers (31 March 2022)**

2958 looked after children and care leavers were recorded on the database by 33 councils, with 938 recorded as being in receipt of accommodation and/or financial support.

The number of looked after children and care leavers recorded on the database increased by 15% from 2579 at the end of Q1 to 2958 by the year end, matching the percentage increase reported in 2020-2021.

Of the 2885 looked after children and care leavers with immigration status recorded:

- 59% had an asylum claim recorded
- 27% had Leave to Remain with recourse to public funds
- 10% had no current immigration permission
- 3% had a European Economic Area (EEA) status recorded or had EEA nationality
- 1% had leave to remain subject to the NRPF condition

## **Home Office responses (April 2021 – March 2022)**

The Home Office responded to 15,250 requests for immigration status information, comprising of:

- 7,363 notifications generated when new households were added or a change of circumstance was recorded by a local authority user (slightly higher than the 7,333 processed in 2020-2021)
- 7,887 'queries' raised by local authority users about households recorded on the system (down from 8,381 received in 2020-2021)

Target response times are set out in the Service Level Agreement (SLA). The Home Office is expected to respond to a notification of a new household in 5 working days and a query raised by the council user in 10 working days. Increased staffing within the Home Office team operating NRPf Connect is welcome and is having a positive impact on achieving the SLA. It is expected that response times will continue to improve as new staff are trained and embedded into the role.

## **Number of users and training**

Each month approximately 500 users of the system update records and manage cases on NRPf Connect.

In 2021-2022 training sessions were arranged for 295 members of staff as part of the NRPf Network's training offer of which 245 (83% of those booked) attended and successfully completed the tutorial.

## **Regional data**

The 2021-2022 data from NRPf Connect has been provided on a regional and national basis to demonstrate cost pressures at a local level and to help inform strategic planning and service development.

The data set for each region will be affected by the number of councils subscribing and whether they are using NRPf Connect across each service area (families, adults with care needs, and/or looked after children and care leavers).

Recording financial information for family and adult households demonstrates that statutory duties are engaged to provide accommodation and/or financial support and will mean that the case is flagged as a priority to the Home Office. When financial information is inputted accurately, councils can use the data report functions to monitor performance, including caseload trends and expenditure. Therefore, the critical figures to note are:

- The number of adult and family households that have been recorded as financially supported.
- How many of that number were closed (demonstrating that a route off support has been achieved).

When statutory duties are engaged to provide support to a family or adult with care needs, the council will need to focus efforts on working with the person to identify an appropriate pathway to exit support. Duration of time on support per households therefore helps to monitor resolution rates and attention needs to be paid to:

- The average number of days that a household is supported for (time on support from start date of service to 31 March 2022).
- The number of households that have received support for 1000 days or more and remain 'unresolved' on 31 March 2022.

Any under-reporting by councils of new households that are financially supported and/ or case closures will, however, contribute to a higher average number of days on support than the national figure.

### **East of England**

#### **Overall costs and households supported (as of 31 March 2022)**

5 councils using NRPF Connect were supporting 255 households with accommodation and/or financial support at a collective annual cost of £5.44 million.

The 255 households comprised of:

- 63 families, with 107 dependants, supported by 5 councils at an annual cost of £0.86 million.
- 45 adults with care needs supported by 2 councils at an annual cost of £0.50 million.
- 147 looked after children and care leavers supported by 2 councils at an annual cost of £4.08 million.

The number of families financially supported over the course of the year decreased, from 79 at the end of Q1 to 63 by the year end.

The number of adults financially supported also decreased, from 50 at the end of Q1 to 45 by the year end.

Of the 61 family households where immigration status has been recorded:

- 33% had a European Economic Area (EEA) status recorded or EEA nationality.
- 30% had no current immigration permission, including visa overstayers.
- 16% had leave to remain subject to the 'No Recourse to Public Funds' (NRPF) condition.
- 11% had leave to remain with recourse to public funds and are likely to be in the process of transferring to mainstream benefits and housing services.
- 8% had an asylum claim recorded
- 2% were British

Of the 45 adult households where immigration status has been recorded:

- 73% had a European Economic Area (EEA) status recorded or EEA nationality.
- 11% had no current immigration permission.
- 9% had an asylum claim recorded.
- 5% had leave to remain with recourse to public funds and are likely to be in the process of transferring to mainstream benefits and housing services.
- 2% had leave to remain subject to the NRPF condition.

### **Referrals (April 2021 – March 2022)**

338 households requesting or referred for support were added to the database during the year comprising of:

- 148 families
- 155 adults with care needs
- 35 looked after children and care leavers

32% of families referred for support had a European Economic Area (EEA) status recorded or EEA nationality, 28% had a form of leave to remain with recourse to public funds, 19% had a form of leave to remain that was subject to the NRPF condition.

72% of adult households that were referred for support had a European Economic Area (EEA) status recorded or EEA nationality.

### **Time on support and closure reasons (as of 31 March 2022)**

The average number of days that a family household was supported for was 679 days (compared to the national average of 598 days).

The average number of days that an adult household was supported for was 794 days (compared to the national average of 993 days).

A case is 'unresolved' when a parent or adult does not have a European Economic Area (EEA) status or a form of leave to remain that allows recourse to public funds. The following proportions of 'unresolved' households received support for longer than 1000 days:

- 21% of families (7 out of 33)
- 70% of adults (7 out of 10)

Of the 70 family households that had their support withdrawn and case closed:

- 80% exited support following a grant of leave to remain or a change in immigration status that allows access to public funds (70% on a non-EEA route and 10% on an EEA route, including being granted status under the EU Settlement Scheme)
- 3% returned to their country of origin or left the UK.

Of the 11 adult households that had their support withdrawn and case closed:

- 55% exited support following a grant of leave to remain or a change in immigration status that allows access to public funds (19% on a non-EEA route and 36% on an EEA route, including being granted status under the EU Settlement Scheme).
- 36% returned to their country of origin or left the UK.

### **Looked after children and care leavers (31 March 2022)**

296 looked after children and care leavers were recorded on the database, with 147 recorded as being in receipt of accommodation and/or financial support.

The number of looked after children and care leavers recorded on the database increased from 279 at the end of Q1 to 296 by the year end.

Of the 283 looked after children and care leaver households where immigration status has been recorded:

- 65% had an asylum claim recorded
- 25% had leave to remain with recourse to public funds
- 7% had no current immigration permission
- 3% had a European Economic Area (EEA) status recorded or had EEA nationality

### **Observations**

The high number of referrals indicates a significant demand for assistance in the region.

When support is provided, the councils using NRPF Connect have demonstrated excellent resolution rates with a reduction in the number of adult and family households supported achieved. Despite a reducing caseload, average number of days on support for families and adults has risen over the course of the year and for family cases this now exceeds the national average. The increase in average days on support may reflect the challenges in finding a route out of local authority support for some of the more complex cases.

People with EEA status or EEA nationality form the largest proportion of adult and family households provided with support, with resolution usually achieved through the EU Settlement Scheme or, for single adults, through supporting a return to country of origin.

The number of looked after children and care leavers recorded on NRPF Connect has risen over the year, but with little change in the proportion that are also financially supported.

### **East of Midlands**

#### **Overall costs and households supported (as of 31 March 2022)**

5 councils using NRPF Connect were supporting 163 households with accommodation

and/or financial support at a collective annual cost of £3.19 million.

The 163 households comprised of:

- 77 families, with 167 dependants, supported by 5 councils at an annual cost of £1.27 million.
- 24 adults with care needs supported by 2 councils at an annual cost of £0.45 million.
- 62 looked after children and care leavers supported by 3 councils at an annual cost of £1.47 million.

The number of families receiving financial support over the course of the year decreased, from 81 at the end of Q1 to 77 by the year end.

The number of adults receiving financial support increased, from 19 at the end of Q1 to 24 by the year end.

Of the 76 family households where immigration status has been recorded:

- 35% had a European Economic Area (EEA) status recorded or had EEA nationality.
- 25% had no current immigration permission, including visa overstayers.
- 18% had leave to remain with recourse to public funds and are likely to be in the process of transferring to mainstream benefits and housing services.
- 11% had an asylum claim recorded.
- 11% had leave to remain subject to the 'No Recourse to Public Funds' (NRPF) condition.

Of the 22 adult households where immigration status has been recorded:

- 54% had an asylum claim recorded.
- 32% had no current immigration permission.
- 9% had a European Economic Area (EEA) status recorded or EEA nationality.
- 5% had leave to remain with recourse to public funds and are likely to be in the process of transferring to mainstream benefits and housing services.

### **Referrals (April 2021 – March 2022)**

521 households requesting or referred for support were added to the database during the year.

The 521 households comprised of:

- 339 families
- 93 adults with care needs
- 89 looked after children and care leavers

37% of families referred for support had a European Economic Area (EEA) status recorded or had EEA nationality, 20% had a form of leave to remain with recourse to public funds, 16% of family households had an asylum claim recorded.

47% of adult households that were referred for support had a European Economic Area (EEA) status recorded or EEA nationality, 16% had no current immigration permission.

### **Time on support and closure reasons (as of 31 March 2022)**

The average number of days that a family household was supported for was 575 days (compared to the national average of 598 days).

The average number of days that an adult household was supported for was 895 days (compared to the national average of 993 days).

A case is 'unresolved' when a parent or adult does not have a European Economic Area (EEA) status or a form of leave to remain that allows recourse to public funds. The following proportions of 'unresolved' households received support for longer than 1000 days:

- 29% of families (10 out of 35)
- 37 % of adults (7 out of 19)

Of the 68 family households that had their support withdrawn and case closed:

- 78% exited support following a grant of leave to remain or a change in immigration status that allows access to public funds (62% on a non-EEA route and 16% on an EEA route, including being granted status under the EU Settlement Scheme).
- 3% returned to their country of origin or left the UK.

Of the 8 adult households that had their support withdrawn and case closed:

50% exited support following a grant of leave to remain or a change in immigration status that allows access to public funds (25% on a non-EEA route and 25% on an EEA route, including being granted status under the EU Settlement Scheme).

### **Looked after children and care leavers (31 March 2022)**

516 looked after children and care leavers were recorded on the database, with 62 recorded as being in receipt of accommodation and/or financial support.

The number of looked after children and care leavers recorded on the increased from 481 at the end of Q1 to 516 by the year end.

Of the 514 looked after children and care leaver households where immigration status has been recorded:

- 45% had leave to remain with recourse to public funds
- 38% had an asylum claim recorded

- 15% had no current immigration permission
- 2% had a European Economic Area (EEA) status recorded or EEA nationality

## **Observations**

The average number of days on support for family households is below the national average indicating good resolution rates and an overall reduction in the number of family households supported was also achieved. Even though caseloads have reduced, demand for support also remains high with the number of referrals for support staying consistent over the four quarters of the year.

Whereas five councils use NRPf Connect to record families that are provided with support, only two use the system to record adults with care needs, which may indicate an under-reporting of the latter group. Average days on support for adult cases reduced over the year and by the end of quarter 4 this figure was just below the national average.

People with an EEA status or EEA nationality comprise the largest proportion of adult and family cases referred (47% and 37% respectively), although for adults in receipt of financial support the caseload is largely comprised of people who have claimed asylum or have no immigration permission (54% and 32% of adult case supported).

The number of looked after children and care leavers recorded on NRPf Connect for the region remains high and has increased over the course of the year.

## **Greater London**

### **Overall costs and households supported (as of 31 March 2022)**

30 London Boroughs using NRPf Connect were supporting 2089 households with accommodation and/or financial support at a collective annual cost of £40.6 million.

The 2089 households comprised of:

- 1000 families, with 1711 dependants, supported by 30 London Boroughs at an annual cost of £18.3 million.
- 576 adults with care needs, supported by 22 London Boroughs at an annual cost of £11.41 million.
- 513 looked after children and care leavers, supported by 16 London Boroughs, at an annual cost of £10.87 million.

The number of families financially supported over the course of the year slightly decreased, from 1025 at the end of Q1 to 1000 by the year end.

The number of adults financially supported slightly increased over the year, from 552 at the end of Q1 to 576 by the year end.



Of the 947 family households where immigration status has been recorded:

- 49% had no current immigration permission, including visa overstayers.
- 18% had a European Economic Area (EEA) status recorded or EEA nationality.
- 13% had leave to remain with recourse to public funds and are likely to be in the process of transferring to mainstream benefits and housing services.
- 11% had an asylum claim recorded.
- 9% had leave to remain subject to the 'No Recourse to Public Funds' (NRPF) condition.

Of the 552 adult households where immigration status has been recorded:

- 44% had no current immigration permission.
- 24% had an asylum claim recorded.
- 20% had a European Economic Area (EEA) status recorded or had EEA nationality.
- 8% had recourse to public funds and are likely to be in the process of transferring to mainstream benefits and housing services.
- 4% had leave to remain subject to the NRPF condition.

### **Referrals (April 2021 – March 2022)**

3147 households requesting or referred for support were added to the database during the year, representing 54% of all new cases created nationally.

The 3147 households comprised of:

- 1593 families
- 1063 adults with care needs
- 491 looked after children and care leavers

29% of family households that were referred had no current immigration status, 20% were European Economic Area (EEA) status recorded or had EEA nationality, 20% had a form of leave to remain with recourse to public funds, 19% had a form of leave to remain that was subject to the NRPF condition.

35% of adult households had a European Economic Area (EEA) status recorded or had EEA nationality, 27% had no current immigration permission.

### **Time on support and closure reasons (as of 31 March 2022)**

The average number of days that a family household was supported for was 558 days (compared to the national average of 598 days).

The average number of days that an adult household was supported for was 949 days (compared to the national average of 993 days).

A case is 'unresolved' when a parent or adult does not have a European Economic Area (EEA) status or a form of leave to remain that allows recourse to public funds. The following proportions of 'unresolved' households received support for longer than 1000 days:

- 15% of families (100 out of 652)
- 34% of adults (135 out of 399)

Of the 733 family households that had their support withdrawn and case closed:

- 84% exited support following a grant of leave to remain or a change in immigration status that allows access to public funds (71% on a non-EEA route and 13% on an EEA route, including being granted status under the EU Settlement Scheme).
- 2% returned to their country of origin or left the UK.

Of the 203 adult households that had their support withdrawn and case closed:

- 65% exited support following a grant of leave to remain or a change in immigration status that allows access to public funds (48% on a non-EEA route and 17% on an EEA route, including being granted status under the EU Settlement Scheme).
- 7% returned to their country of origin or left the UK.

### **Looked after children and care leavers (as of 31 March 2022)**

1470 looked after children and care leavers were recorded on the database, with 513 recorded as being in receipt of accommodation and/or financial support. Of the 1470 looked after children and care leavers, 537 (38%) were recorded as being aged 21 years of age or older.

The number of looked after children and care leavers recorded on the database increased by 9.4% from 1343 at the end of Q1 to 1470 by the year end.

Of the 1453 looked after children and care leaver households where immigration status has been recorded:

- 63% had an asylum claim recorded.
- 24% had leave to remain with recourse to public.
- 8% had no current immigration permission.
- 4% had a European Economic Area (EEA) status recorded or EEA nationality.
- 1% had Leave to Remain subject to the NRPF condition.

### **Observations**

There is a very high level of need for local authority support for families and adults with care needs in Greater London, resulting in significant cost pressures for the capital. Nearly all councils in the region are using NRPF Connect to help manage their response and most boroughs employ dedicated NRPF teams or specialist workers. Greater London accounts for 64% of national accommodation and subsistence expenditure and 61% of financially supported caseloads, for new cases recorded on the system over the year the proportion of total referrals nationally is 54%.

The number of family households recorded by 30 London Boroughs reduced by 2.4% over the year but average number of days on support per households rose from 497 days at the beginning of quarter 1 to 558 days by the year end. The increase in days on support despite an overall decrease in caseload reflects the fact that there are a proportion of long-term cases that remain unresolved.

Whereas 30 London Boroughs councils use NRPF Connect to record families that are provided with support, this reduces to 22 London Boroughs using the system to record adults with care needs, which may indicate an under-reporting of the latter group. The total number of adults in receipt of financial support increased over the year, as did the average days on support per household.

16 London Boroughs also used NRPF Connect to record looked after children and care leaver cases, the number of open cases increased over the year by 9.5% with 1470 households (50% of the caseload recorded national) open at year end.

### **North East**

#### **Overall costs and households supported (as of 31 March 2022)**

4 councils using NRPF Connect were supporting 24 households with accommodation and/or financial support at a collective annual cost of £0.36 million.

The 24 households comprised of:

- 7 families, with 14 dependants, supported by 2 councils at an annual cost of £0.14 million.
- 10 adults with care needs supported by 4 councils at an annual cost of £0.13 million.
- 7 looked after children and care leavers, supported by 1 council, at an annual cost of £0.09 million.

#### **Referrals (April 2021 – March 2022)**

13 households requesting or referred for support were added to the database during the year.

The 13 households comprised of:

- 1 family case (with pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme)
- 12 adults with care needs

25% of adult households that were referred had no current immigration permission, 25% had a European Economic Area (EEA) status recorded or EEA nationality, 25% had an asylum claim recorded, 17% had a form of leave to remain with recourse to public funds, and 8% had a form of leave to remain that was subject to the NRPF condition.

### **Time on support and closure reasons (as of 31 March 2022)**

The average number of days that a family household was supported for was 2035 days (significantly higher than the national average of 598 days).

The average number of days that an adult household was supported for was 2114 days (significantly higher than the national average of 993 days).

### **Observations**

There is the potential for growth in use of the system in the North East in order for councils to maximise the benefits of using NRPF Connect and to demonstrate the pressures arising from supporting people with no recourse to public funds in this region. The average number of days on support per case is much higher than the national average and is attributable to the existing cases remaining open and a potential under-reporting of new cases being financially supported.

### **North West**

### **Overall costs and households supported (as of 31 March 2022)**

3 councils using NRPF Connect were supporting 42 households with accommodation and/or financial support at a collective annual cost of £0.59 million.

The 42 households are made up of:

- 27 families, with 45 dependants, supported by 2 councils at an annual cost of £0.4 million.
- 15 adults with care needs supported by 2 councils at an annual cost of £0.19 million

The number of families receiving financial support over the course of the year decreased, from 36 at the end of Q1 to 27 by the year end.

The number of adults receiving financial support decreased from 21 at the end of Q1 to 15 by the year end.

Of the 25 family households where immigration status has been recorded:

- 56% had no current immigration permission, including visa overstayers.

- 16% had an asylum claim recorded.
- 12% had leave to remain with recourse to public funds and are likely to be in the process of transferring to mainstream benefits and housing services.
- 12% had leave to remain subject to the 'No Recourse to Public Funds' (NRPF) condition.
- 4% had a European Economic Area (EEA) status recorded or EEA nationality.

Of the 13 adult households where immigration status has been recorded:

- 61% had no current immigration permission.
- 31% had an asylum claim recorded.
- 8% had a European Economic Area (EEA) status recorded or EEA nationality.

### **Referrals (April 2021 – March 2022)**

218 households requesting or referred for support were added to the database during the year.

The 218 households comprised of:

- 115 families.
- 102 adults with care needs.
- 1 child in care / care leaver.

32% of family households had a form of leave to remain that was subject to the NRPF condition, 24% had a form of leave to remain with recourse to public funds, 20% had no current immigration status.

38% of adult households that were referred had no current immigration permission, 18% had a form of leave to remain with recourse to public funds, 16% had an asylum claim recorded, 15% had a form of leave to remain that was subject to the NRPF condition, 13% had a European Economic Area (EEA) status recorded or had EEA nationality.

### **Time on support and closure reasons (as of 31 March 2022)**

The average number of days that a family household was supported for was 678 days (compared to the national average of 598 days).

The average number of days that an adult household was supported for was 720 days (compared to the national average of 993 days).

A case is 'unresolved' when a parent or adult does not have a European Economic Area (EEA) status or a form of leave to remain that allows recourse to public funds. The following proportions of 'unresolved' households received support for longer than 1000 days:

- 33% of families (7 out of 21)

- 17% of adults (2 out of 12)

Of the 57 family households that had their support withdrawn and case closed:

- 94% exited support following a grant of leave to remain or a change in immigration status that allows access to public funds (92% on a non-EEA route and 2% on an EEA route, including being granted status under the EU Settlement Scheme).
- 4% accessed asylum support.
- 2% were no longer eligible for support.

## **Observations**

For the two councils using NRPF Connect in the North West, good resolution rates for family households are being achieved, with a 26% reduction in the number of families supported over the year. Despite a reducing caseload, average number of days on support for family households has risen and exceeds the national average, the rise will in-part be attributed to the high proportion of 1000 day family cases remaining in receipt of financial support.

The percentage of people with EEA immigration status or EEA nationality being referred (17% of all referrals for families and 13% for adults) and financially supported (4% of family households and 8% of for adults) is lower than the national average, the trend for this group to be the largest proportion of people referred is not reflected in the North West. The data does, however, indicate a high referral rate in the region for people who have leave to remain that is subject to the NRPF condition, with 32% of all family referrals having this status.

There is the potential for growth in use of the system in the North West in order for councils to maximise the benefits of using NRPF Connect and to demonstrate the pressures arising from supporting people with no recourse to public funds in this region.

## **South East**

### **Overall costs and households supported (as of 31 March 2022)**

11 councils using NRPF Connect were supporting 347 households with accommodation and/or financial support at a collective annual cost of £6.8 million.

The 347 households are made up of:

- 131 families, with 228 dependants, supported by 11 councils at an annual cost of £2.19 million.
- 35 adults with care needs supported by 6 councils at an annual cost of £1.17 million.
- 181 looked after children and care leavers supported by 6 councils, at an annual cost of £3.42 million.

The number of families receiving financial support over the course of the year increased, from 119 at the end of Q1 to 131 by the year end.

The number of adults receiving financial support decreased marginally, from 38 at the end of Q1 to 35 by the year end.

Of the 127 family households where immigration status has been recorded:

- 27% had no current immigration permission.
- 25% had leave to remain with recourse to public funds and are likely to be in the process of transferring to mainstream benefits and housing services.
- 24% had a European Economic Area (EEA) status recorded or EEA nationality.
- 14% had an asylum claim recorded.
- 9% had leave to remain subject to the 'No Recourse to Public Funds' (NRPF) condition.
- 1% were British.

Of the 34 adult households where immigration status has been recorded:

- 29% had a European Economic Area (EEA) status recorded or EEA nationality.
- 26% had no current immigration permission.
- 24% had an asylum claim recorded.
- 18% had recourse to public funds and are likely to be in the process of transferring to mainstream benefits and housing services.
- 3% had leave to remain subject to the NRPF condition.

### **Referrals (April 2021 – March 2022)**

516 households requesting or referred for support were added to the database during the year.

The 516 households comprised of:

- 250 looked after children and care leavers.
- 235 families.
- 31 adults with care needs

31% of family households that were referred had a European Economic Area (EEA) status recorded or EEA nationality, 20% had no current immigration permission, 19 % had a form of leave to remain that was subject to the NRPF condition.

35% of adult households that were referred had an asylum claim recorded, 20% had no current immigration permission.

## **Time on support and closure reasons (as of 31 March 2022)**

The average number of days that a family household was supported for was 769 days (compared to the national average of 598 days).

The average number of days that an adult household was supported for was 1294 days (compared to the national average of 993 days).

A case is 'unresolved' when a parent or adult does not have a European Economic Area (EEA) status or a form of leave to remain that allows recourse to public funds. The following proportions of 'unresolved' households received support for longer than 1000 days:

- 21% of families (13 out of 63)
- 61% of adults (11 out of 18)

Of the 65 family households that had their support withdrawn and case closed:

- 72% exited support following a grant of leave to remain or a change in immigration status that allows access to public funds (63% on a non-EEA route and 9% on an EEA route, including being granted status under the EU Settlement Scheme).
- 3% returned to their country of origin or left the UK.

Of the 8 adult households that had their support withdrawn and case closed:

50% exited support following a grant of leave to remain or a change in immigration status that allows access to public funds (37% on a non-EEA route and 13% on an EEA route, including being granted status under the EU Settlement Scheme).

## **Looked after children and care leavers (31 March 2022)**

449 looked after children and care leavers were recorded on the database, with 181 recorded as being in receipt of accommodation and/or financial support.

The number of looked after children and care leavers recorded on the database increased by 58% from 284 at the end of Q1 to 449 by the year end.

Of the 427 looked after children and care leaver households where immigration status has been recorded:

- 70% had an asylum claim recorded.
- 20% had recourse to public funds.
- 8% had no current immigration permission.
- 1% had leave to remain subject to the NRPF condition.
- 1% had a European Economic Area (EEA) status recorded or had EEA nationality.



## **Observations**

The South East reports the second highest regional spend after Greater London, with accommodation and subsistence costs recorded by 11 councils representing 11% of reported national expenditure.

Looked after children and care leavers make up the majority of households recorded on NRPF Connect for the region and 27% of all new looked after children and care leavers nationally were added by the 6 local authorities in the South East. The data reflects the pressures encountered as a result of the region's intake of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children and the impact of children turning 18 and having no recourse to public funds whilst they are waiting for a decision on their asylum claim or if they become 'Appeal Rights Exhausted'.

Although only 35 adults with care needs were recorded by six councils as receiving support at the end of the financial year, the cost of providing support to this group was half of the total sum that 11 councils were spending on supporting 131 families. This suggests that accommodation placements for adults with care needs may be particularly high and /or that councils are predominantly supporting adults requiring residential placements rather than accommodation in the community. The relatively low number of adults with care needs recorded on NRPF Connect over the year suggests that this group may be under-reported.

For both adult and family households, the average number of days on support was significantly higher than the national average, which may reflect the challenges when working to find a route off support for complex cases. Whereas adult cases in receipt of financial support reduced over the year, the number of families receiving support increased by 10%.

## **South West**

### **Overall costs and households supported (as of 31 March 2022)**

2 councils using NRPF Connect were supporting 126 households with accommodation and/or financial support at a collective annual cost of £1.77 million.

The 126 households comprised of:

- 79 families, with 138 dependants, supported by 2 councils at an annual cost of £1.11 million.
- 22 adults with care needs supported by 2 councils at an annual cost of £0.36 million.
- 25 looked after children and care leavers supported by 1 council, at an annual cost of £0.3 million.

The number of families receiving financial support over the course of the year increased, from 63 at the end of Q1 to 79 by the year end.

Despite variations during the year, the number of adults receiving financial support remained constant throughout the year at 22.

Of the 76 family households where immigration status has been recorded:

- 29% had a European Economic Area (EEA) status recorded or had EEA nationality.
- 26% had an asylum claim recorded.
- 21% had no current immigration permission.
- 15% had leave to remain with recourse to public funds and are likely to be in the process of transferring to mainstream benefits and housing services.
- 8% had leave to remain subject to the 'No Recourse to Public Funds' (NRPF) condition.
- 1% were British.

Of the 21 adult households where immigration status has been recorded:

- 33% had an asylum claim recorded.
- 24% had a European Economic Area (EEA) status recorded or EEA nationality.
- 24% had no current immigration permission.
- 10% had leave to remain with recourse to public funds and are likely to be in the process of transferring to mainstream benefits and housing services.
- 9% had leave to remain subject to the NRPF condition.

### **Referrals (April 2021 – March 2022)**

205 households requesting or referred for support were added to the database during the year.

205 households comprised of:

- 118 families
- 51 looked after children and care leavers
- 36 adults with care needs

35% of family households that were referred had a European Economic Area (EEA) status or EEA nationality, 27% had leave to remain with recourse to public funds, 21% had an asylum claim recorded.

42% of adult households referred had a European Economic Area (EEA) status or EEA nationality, 37% had an asylum claim recorded, 12% had leave to remain with NRPF.

### **Time on support and closure reasons (as of 31 March 2022)**

The average number of days that a family household was supported for was 611 days (compared to the national average of 598 days).

The average number of days that an adult household was supported for was 746 days (compared to the national average of 993 days).

A case is 'unresolved' when a parent or adult does not have a European Economic Area (EEA) status or a form of leave to remain that allows recourse to public funds. The following proportions of 'unresolved' households received support for longer than 1000 days:

- 31% of families (13 out of 42)
- 14% of adults (2 out of 14)

Of the 39 family households that had their support withdrawn and case closed:

- 92% exited support following a grant of leave to remain or a change in immigration status that allows access to public funds (74% on a non-EEA route and 18% on an EEA route, including being granted status under the EU Settlement Scheme).
- 5% accessed asylum support.
- 3% were no longer eligible for support.

Of the 9 adult households that had their support withdrawn and case closed:

- 55% exited support following a grant of leave to remain or a change in immigration status that allows access to public funds (33% on a non-EEA route and 22% on an EEA route, including being granted status under the EU Settlement Scheme).
- 22% were no longer eligible for support.
- 12% accessed asylum support.
- 11% returned to their country of origin or left the UK.

### **Looked after children and care leavers (31 March 2022)**

143 looked after children and care leavers were recorded on the database, with 25 recorded as being in receipt of accommodation and/or financial support.

The number of looked after children and care leavers recorded on the database increased from 115 at the end of Q1 to 143 by the year end.

Of the 125 looked after children and care leaver households where immigration status has been recorded:

- 47% had an asylum claim recorded.
- 29% had no current immigration permission.
- 22% had leave to remain with recourse to public funds.

- 2% had a European Economic Area (EEA) status recorded or had EEA nationality.

## **Observations**

The number of family households recorded as financially supported increased by 25% over the year. At the same time, the average number of days on support per family household also increased and is now slightly higher than the national average. Despite a good number of case-closures achieved, usually following a grant of leave to remain, the high proportion of 1000 day cases remaining in receipt of financial support indicates challenges establishing a route out of local authority support for complex cases.

The average number of days for support for adult cases is lower than the national average indicating good resolution rates, with only two adult households unresolved and supported for over 1000 days.

The proportion of adult and family households with a recorded asylum claim that were receiving or referred for support was also higher in the South West than the national average.

For children and looked after care leavers, the 29% who 'had no current immigration permission' demonstrates how a sizeable proportion of children in care will not be on an asylum route but must nevertheless be assisted by the council to obtain immigration status in the UK.

## **West Midlands**

### **Overall costs and households supported (as of 31 March 2022)**

7 councils using NRPF Connect were supporting 130 households with accommodation and/or financial support at a collective annual cost of £1.86 million.

The 130 households comprised of:

- 104 families, with 157 dependants, supported by 7 councils at an annual cost of £1.51 million.
- 14 adults with care needs, supported by 3 councils at an annual cost of £0.22 million.
- 12 looked after children and care leavers, supported by 2 councils, at an annual cost of £0.13 million.

The number of families financially supported over the course of the year decreased, from 113 at the end of Q1 to 104 by the year end.

The number of adult households financially supported over the course of the year increased marginally, from 13 at the end of Q1 to 14 by the year end

Of the 96 family households where immigration status has been recorded:

- 48% had no current immigration permission.
- 20% had an asylum claim recorded.
- 15% had leave to remain with recourse to public funds and are likely to be in the process of transferring to mainstream benefits and housing services.
- 9% had a European Economic Area (EEA) status recorded or EEA nationality.
- 8% had leave to remain subject to the 'No Recourse to Public Funds' (NRPF) condition.

Of the 14 adult households where immigration status has been recorded:

- 36% had a European Economic Area (EEA) status recorded or EEA nationality.
- 22% had no current immigration permission.
- 21% had an asylum claim recorded.
- 14% had leave to remain subject to the 'No Recourse to Public Funds' (NRPF) condition.
- 7% had leave to remain with recourse to public funds and are likely to be in the process of transferring to mainstream benefits and housing services.

### **Referrals (April 2021 – March 2022)**

456 households requesting or referred for support were added to the database during the year.

The 456 households comprised of:

- 260 families
- 178 adults with care needs
- 18 looked after children and care leavers

25% of family households that were referred had no current immigration permission, 25% had leave to remain with recourse to public funds, 23% had and a form of leave to remain that was subject to the NRPF condition, 20% had a European Economic Area (EEA) status recorded or EEA nationality.

33% of adult households that were referred had no current immigration permission, 24% had an asylum claim recorded, 22% had a European Economic Area (EEA) status recorded or EEA nationality, 12% had leave to remain with recourse to public funds.

### **Time on support and closure reasons (as of 31 March 2022)**

The average number of days that a family household was supported for was 846 days (compared to the national average of 598 days).

The average number of days that an adult household was supported for was 1564 days

(compared to the national average of 993 days).

A case is 'unresolved' when a parent or adult does not have a European Economic Area (EEA) status or a form of leave to remain that allows recourse to public funds. The following proportions of 'unresolved' households received support for longer than 1000 days:

- 30% of families (22 out of 73)
- 75% of adults (6 out of 8)

Of the 82 family households that had their support withdrawn and case closed:

- 84% exited support following a grant of leave to remain or a change in immigration status that allows access to public funds (71% on a non-EEA route and 13% on an EEA route, including being granted status under the EU Settlement Scheme).
- 1% returned to their country of origin or left the UK.

3 adult households exited support following a grant of leave to remain or a change in immigration status that allows access to public funds (1 out of 3 households) or following a grant of leave under the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) (2 out of 3 households).

### **Looked after children and care leavers (31 March 2022)**

68 looked after children and care leavers were recorded on the database, with 12 recorded as being in receipt of accommodation and/or financial support.

The number of looked after children and care leavers recorded on the database increased from 61 at the end of Q1 to 68 by the year end.

Of the 67 looked after children and care leaver households where immigration status has been recorded:

- 64% had an asylum claim recorded.
- 15% had leave to remain with recourse to public funds.
- 13% had no current immigration permission.
- 4% had a European Economic Area (EEA) status recorded or had EEA nationality
- 3% had leave to remain subject to the NRPF condition.

### **Observations**

The overall number of family households supported in the West Midlands reduced by 8% but the proportion of family households supported for longer than 1000 days (30%) remained higher than the national figure of 17%. A higher proportion of long-standing cases where challenges in resolving the case have been encountered means that the average number of days on support per family household remains high, despite an overall reducing caseload.

It is unclear whether the data accurately reflects the number of adults with care needs being financially supported in the region. Although 3 councils did record 178 referrals made by adults presenting with possible care needs, only 4 were provided with accommodation and financial support. 3 financially supported cases were closed in the year, but the average number of days on support for the 14 cases financially supported at year-end remains significantly higher than the national average.

There is the potential for growth in use of the system in the West Midlands for councils to maximise the benefits of using NRPF Connect and to demonstrate the pressures arising from supporting people with no recourse to public funds in this region. There is also an opportunity for the councils contributing data to work towards reducing the average days on support through a renewed focus on the 1000-day cases.

### **Yorkshire and the Humber**

#### **Overall costs and households supported (as of 31 March 2022)**

3 councils using NRPF Connect were supporting 184 households with accommodation and/or financial support at a collective annual cost of £2.5 million.

The 184 households comprised of:

- 133 families, with 266 dependants, supported by 3 councils at an annual cost of £1.9 million.
- 51 adults with care needs, supported by 2 council at an annual cost of £0.58 million.

The number of families financially supported over the course of the year increased from 113 at the end of Q1 to 133 by the end of Q4.

The number of adults receiving financially support marginally increased, from 44 at the end of Q1 to 51 by the year end.

Of the 133 family households where immigration status has been recorded:

- 29% had a European Economic Area (EEA) status recorded or had EEA nationality.
- 21% had no current immigration permission, including visa overstayers.
- 20% had leave to remain with recourse to public funds and are likely to be in the process of transferring to mainstream benefits and housing services.
- 17% had an asylum claim recorded.
- 11% had leave to remain subject to the 'No Recourse to Public Funds' (NRPF) condition.
- 2% were British.

Of the 39 adult households where immigration status has been recorded:

- 28% had an asylum claim recorded.
- 21% had a European Economic Area (EEA) status recorded or had EEA nationality.
- 21% had no current immigration permission.
- 20% had leave to remain subject to the NRPF condition.
- 10% had recourse to public funds and are likely to be in the process of transferring to mainstream benefits and housing services.

### **Referrals (April 2021 – March 2022)**

330 households requesting or referred for support were added to the database during the year.

The 330 households comprised of:

- 191 families.
- 136 adults with care needs.
- 3 children in care / care leavers.

28% of families referred had a European Economic Area (EEA) status recorded or had EEA nationality, 27% had leave to remain with recourse to public funds, 24% had an asylum claim recorded, 13% of family households had a form of leave to remain that was subject to the NRPF condition.

28% of adult households referred had a form of leave to remain that was subject to the NRPF condition, 25% had a European Economic Area (EEA) status recorded or had EEA nationality, 21% had leave to remain with recourse to public funds.

### **Time on support and closure reasons (as of 31 March 2022)**

The average number of days that a family household was supported for was 433 days (compared to the national average of 598 days).

The average number of days that an adult household was supported for was 1197 days (compared to the national average of 993 days).

A case is 'unresolved' when a parent or adult does not have a European Economic Area (EEA) status or a form of leave to remain that allows recourse to public funds. The following proportions of 'unresolved' households received support for longer than 1000 days:

- 14% of families (10 out of 73)
- 33% of adult households (9 out of 27)

Of the 78 family households that had their support withdrawn and case closed:



- 71% exited support following a grant of leave to remain or a change in immigration status that allows access to public funds (62% on a non-EEA route and 9% on an EEA route, including being granted status under the EU Settlement Scheme).
- 3% returned to their country of origin or left the UK.

Of the 88 adult households that had their support withdrawn and case closed:

- 51% exited support following a grant of leave to remain or a change in immigration status that allows access to public funds (42% on a non-EEA route and 9% on an EEA route, including being granted status under the EU Settlement Scheme).
- 3% accessed asylum support.

## **Observations**

Councils in Yorkshire & the Humber have reported a number of short-term interventions made over the year, with 217 new households provided with financial support in the year and 166 cases closed.

The rapid resolution rate for many of the family cases means that the average number of days on support for family households is lower than the national average. Resolving cases expediently may be attributed to the high proportion of households with leave to remain with NRPF recorded as requesting and receiving support, as some people in this position may be able to resolve their situation of destitution relatively quickly via the Change of Conditions process. Equally, it will be concerning for councils that referral rates are driven by people lawfully present in the UK who are struggling to access benefits and housing, leading to a 18% increase in the number of family households financially supported over the year.

Within the cohort of adult households remaining in receipt of financial support at year end, 33% have been supported for over 1000 days and this contributes to the higher-than-average number of days on support for adult households. Even though many interventions have been short-term, a significant proportion of long-standing cases reflects the challenges in finding a route off council support for these cases.

## **Scotland**

### **Overall costs and households supported (as of 31 March 2022)**

2 councils using NRPF Connect were supporting 63 households with accommodation and/or financial support at a collective annual cost of £0.73 million.

The 63 households comprised of:

- 29 families, with 70 dependants, supported by 2 councils at an annual cost of £0.55 million.
- 34 adults with care needs, supported by 1 council at an annual cost of £0.18 million.

The number of families financially supported over the course of the year increased marginally, from 28 at the end of Q1 to 29 by the year end.

The number of adults receiving financially support also increased marginally, from 33 at the end of Q1 to 34 by the year end.

Of the 28 family households where immigration status has been recorded:

- 32% had an asylum claim recorded.
- 29% had no current immigration permission.
- 18% had a European Economic Area (EEA) status recorded or had EEA nationality.
- 14% had leave to remain with recourse to public funds and are likely to be in the process of transferring to mainstream benefits and housing services.
- 7% had leave to remain subject to the NRPF condition.

Of the 34 adult households where immigration status has been recorded:

- 44% had an asylum claim recorded.
- 32% had no current immigration permission.
- 12% had leave to remain with recourse to public funds and are likely to be in the process of transferring to mainstream benefits and housing services.
- 9% had a European Economic Area (EEA) status recorded or had EEA nationality.
- 3% had leave to remain subject to the NRPF condition.

### **Referrals (April 2021 – March 2022)**

37 households requesting or referred for support were added to the database during the year.

The 37 households comprised of:

- 24 families
- 13 adults with care needs

43% of family households had leave to remain with recourse to public funds, 22% had a European Economic Area (EEA) status recorded or had EEA nationality, 13% had an asylum claim recorded.

75% of adult households that were referred had an asylum claim recorded, 17% had leave to remain with recourse to public funds, 8% had a European Economic Area (EEA) status recorded or had EEA nationality.

### **Time on support and closure reasons (as of 31 March 2022)**

The average number of days that a family household was supported for was 481 days (compared to the national average of 598 days).

The average number of days that an adult household was supported for was 1060 days (compared to the national average of 993 days).

A case is 'unresolved' when a parent or adult does not have a European Economic Area (EEA) status or a form of leave to remain that allows recourse to public funds. The following proportions of 'unresolved' households received support for longer than 1000 days:

- 5% of families (1 out of 19)
- 26% of adults (7 out of 27)

Of the 17 family households that had their support withdrawn and case closed:

- 82% exited support following a grant of leave to remain or a change in immigration status that allows access to public funds (76% on a non-EEA route and 6% on an EEA route, including being granted status under the EU Settlement Scheme).

No adult households had their support withdrawn and case closed during the period analysed.

### **Observations**

The average time on support, for both family and adult households, is lower than the national average for each group, suggesting effective case resolution activities are being undertaken by the councils using the database.

There is the potential for growth in use of the system in Scotland for councils to maximise the benefits of using NRPF Connect and to demonstrate the pressures arising from supporting people with no recourse to public funds in Scotland.



