



ISLINGTON

No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) Network

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Key NRPF issues

- Substantial barriers to statutory support
- No statutory guidance
- Inconsistency between local authorities
- No reimbursement for costs of providing support
- Lack of strategic response to NRPF
- Lack of data



Why establish a network?

- To share information and good practice amongst local authorities and other agencies working in this area
- To work with Government departments to raise the practical and policy issues of NRPF
- To facilitate the reimbursement for local authorities of the costs of providing support to people with NRPF
- To develop a strategic response to people with NRPF



Membership of the network

- There are over 900 members of the NRPF Network
- Membership of the network is diverse: 545 from local authorities; 243 from the voluntary sector; 18 from central government; 28 from the NHS; 55 from other agencies
- Members receive briefings to keep them up-to-date with relevant NRPF issues, conferences and events, case law and policy updates
- Local authority members can participate in regional network meetings to discuss issues at a local level



Governance and Network Structures

- The Network operates under the auspices of the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services and the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADASS/ADCS) Asylum Taskforce
- The National Network is housed at Islington Council
- The Network steering group comprises 16 local authority representatives from authorities across the UK and local authority representative bodies
- Regional Networks have been established in three UK regions: London, the West Midlands and Yorkshire & Humberside. These are coordinated by one local authority representative in the region. We are currently working with the Regional Strategic Migration Partnership managers to develop regional networks across the UK (including the South East and South West)



Current Network Activities

- Policy work with UKBA
- Developing practice guidance for local authorities
- Conducting training
- Conferences and events
- Responses to government consultations and research reports
- Conducting primary research on the scale and nature of NRPF issues
- Briefing Network members on updates in the NRPF field
- Responding to enquiries – information service



National picture

- Anecdotal evidence suggests that social and demographic makeup of different regions impacts on the NRPF clients local authorities are likely to have referred to them. Factors influencing this include:
 1. Rural / urban authorities
 2. Dispersal areas
 3. Authorities with large numbers of UASCs
 4. Ethnic minority and migrant populations
- Inconsistency between local authorities in regards to response to NRPF
- The NRPF Network plans to monitor the nature and scale of NRPF across the country to strategically plan localised responses



NRPF – Financial Context

- No reimbursement for local authorities
- Costs in 2007/8 over £33.4 million
- Support provided by local authorities to almost 4,000 people with NRPF
- Costs increased by 8% from 2006/7 to 2007/8
- Costs concentrated in major urban areas
- Costs not equally spread across local authorities
- Working with UKBA to raise awareness of scale of NRPF across UK and to seek solutions.



NRPF – Financial Context

- Our key recommendations are:
 1. Reimburse local authorities pending removal
 2. Grant status to those who cannot be removed
 3. Remove those who can be removed
 4. Issue statutory guidance to local authorities



Immigration Simplification

- Consolidating Acts of Parliament pertaining to immigration since 1971 in a single Act of Parliament
- UKBA have consulted widely on the proposed legislation
- NRPF issues will remain for foreseeable future
- ‘Probationary citizenship’
- Impact on economic migrants and migrants joining family members
- Restrictions on return



Additional policy concerns

- Domestic violence – Work with Interpersonal Violence Unit of Home Office
- Assisted Voluntary Returns – NRPF Network sits on Home Office AVR Steering Group
- Raising concerns with the UKBA
 - *No current mechanism for information sharing between authorities in regards to fraud*
 - *Better working relationship and protocols required*
 - *Limited intelligence sharing, information not updated to HO files*
 - *Inappropriate accommodation provided by UKBA leads to local authorities having to provide alternate accommodation*



NRPF Network Web Resources

- Good practice guidance for local authorities
- Definitions
- Policy and research papers
- Details of events and conferences
- Resources
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
- Archive of NRPF Network Briefings
- Regional Network details including meeting minutes
- Minutes of NRPF Network Steering Group minutes
- **www.islington.gov.uk/nrpfnetwork**



Contact Details

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