

People From Abroad Team

A community social work approach to supporting migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.



A community social work model

Developing specialist knowledge around migrant communities;

Enabling migrants to integrate and become independent in their own neighbourhoods, promoting independence;

Overcoming cultural and systemic barriers that migrants often face;

Supporting refugee resettlement and integration;

Working with both adults and children using a “whole family” approach;

Specialist safeguarding advice and support where needed;

Establishing networks in the community and working with voluntary and statutory agencies.

Our target groups

- Nationals of member states in the European Economic Area (EEA);
- Recently granted Refugees/Leave to Remain;
- Asylum seekers who have care and support needs including those who have been refused and who have no appeal rights;
- Visa entrants to the UK, mostly those who have a “no recourse to public funds” endorsement on their visa;
- Irregular entrants to the UK including visa overstayers;
- British nationals who are returning to the UK after a period of settled residence; abroad; and,
- Individuals under the UK’s Refugee Resettlement Programmes.

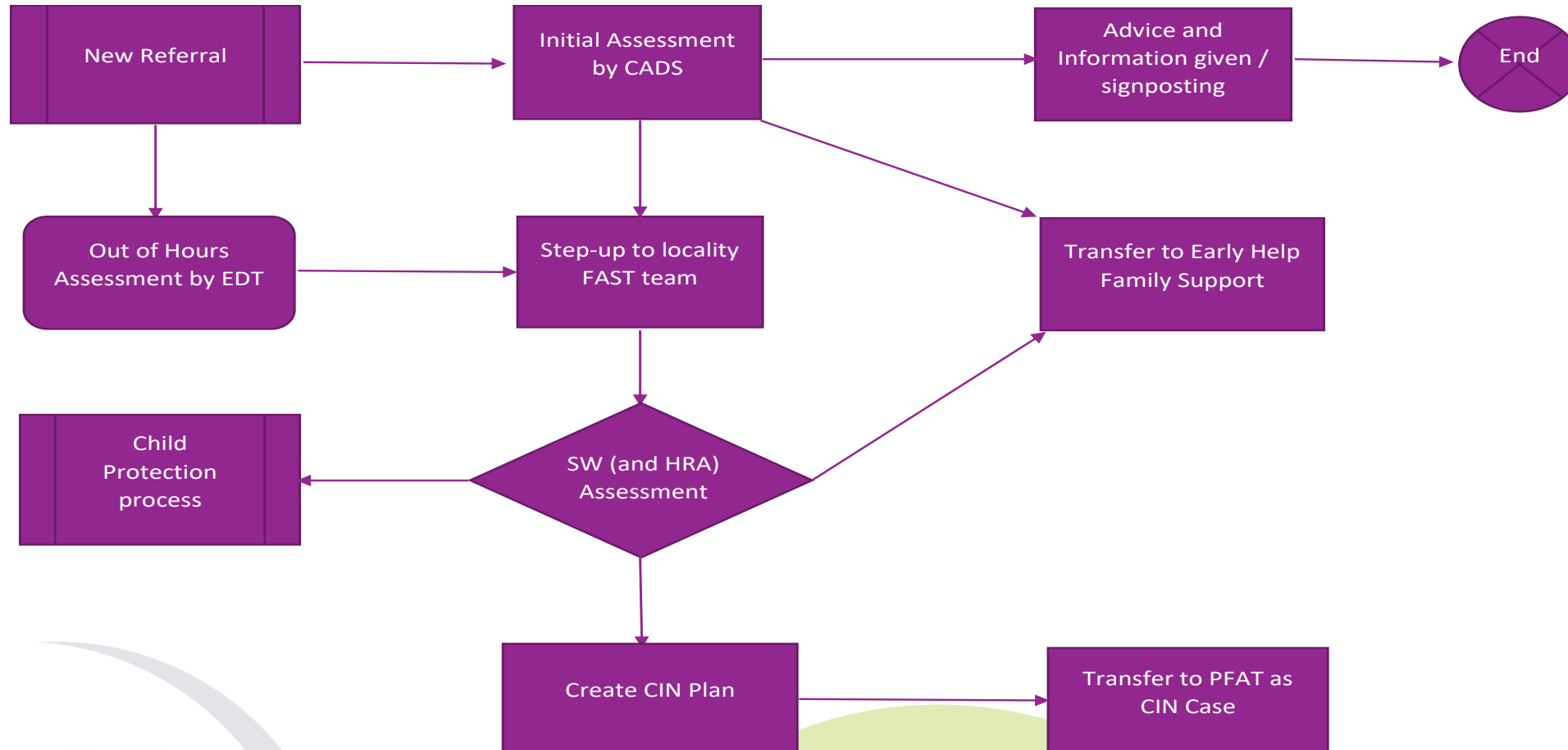
Longer-term support for NRPF Families

For non-asylum seeking families with NRPF assistance provided under S.17 Children Act 1989.

Long-term cases are transferred from Children's Services to the People from Abroad Team to provide the ongoing assistance.

- Securing alternatives to hotel, refuge and emergency accommodation;
- Pre-payment cards used to deliver financial support;
- Focus by specialist social workers to take steps to help the family resolve their immigration status in the UK;
- Support for those who have permission to work to get into employment and become self-sufficient.
- Relieving front line child protection teams from holding NRPF cases long-term where there is no S.47 or S.20 need.

NRPF Families Referral Pathway



Repatriation Support

Supports those who may be considering voluntary return to country of origin.

Primarily aimed at EEA nationals, but we will provide liaison and local support for those under VRS.

Explore options – employment, return, regularise immigration status.

Support to plan and prepare for return, including liaison with services in other country (reconnection support).

Travel assistance to those who cannot afford to pay for own passage.

Speedy response (a few days) as opposed to 16 weeks for VRS to minimise periods of local authority support with accommodation and support.

Integrated Health and Social Care Support for Asylum Seekers – funded by ICB.

Specialist nurse, paramedic and Development Worker;

Aimed at up-skilling primary care at better supporting asylum seekers and refugees;

Providing support through initial screening of newly arrived asylum seekers using Dept of Health assessment framework;

Helping newly arrived asylum seekers register with a local GP practice and highlighting any immediate health needs;

Promoting use of mainstream health services in the community (e.g. providing training to practice staff on best practice).

They are not a specialist health team providing a discrete health practice service. The model is one of integration and mainstream provision.

Safeguarding Vulnerable People

Joint work with police re Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery cases where the victim originates from overseas;

Making referrals-in to the National Referral Mechanism for potential victims of human trafficking;

Providing consultation and advice about cases where there is suspected to be risks of Honour-Based Abuse or Forced Marriage. Supporting the police with welfare assistance to victims of HBA and FM

Liaising with overseas services and making arrangements for British nationals who are returning to the UK following a period of settled residence abroad (commonly retirees abroad who become unwell).

Working with District Councils

Single point of contact for district councils for enquiries related to customers with immigration needs. Frequently used by Ukraine Support Teams, Housing Options Team.

Ability to use NRPF Connect's RTPF checker at speed to establish a person's immigration status and therefore advise district council colleagues on applicable routes.

Working with rough sleeper officers to tackle migrant rough sleepers and seek resolutions.

Raising Duty to Refer to Housing Options for migrants who receive their grant of status, and highlighting areas of vulnerability (Priority Need).

Providing specialist Temporary Accommodation for those on Home for Ukraine Scheme and working with district councils to support complex cases.

Benefits of an immigration social work team

Workers build up specialist knowledge and networks and can focus on addressing the obstacles to clients exiting local authority support.

Consistent approach - providing support in line with national guidance and caselaw.

Own portfolio of accommodation, reducing use of B&B / refuges etc.

Culturally-aware staff, using trauma-informed approaches.

Relieves pressures on frontline safeguarding and mainstream teams.

Specialist responses to HBA, Modern Slavery, Forced Marriage, Human Trafficking work and enables fulfilment First Responder duties under MSA 2015.

Trust-based relationships with service-users.

Access to immigration advice

Having OISC level 1 practitioners in the team enables us to address immigration issues early on and avoids heading down “rabbit holes” with cases.

Immigration status checks are one of the foremost checks, with evidence of identity being key. NRPF Connect and the RTPF checker are essential tools.

Accurate recording of immigration status = correct application of social care law and any restrictions or alternative pathways of support.

Onward referral to local OISC Level 2+ advisers for complex cases.

Busting the myth amongst professionals that being born in the UK = being British.

Identifies those who need resolution of immigration to secure their status in UK

Ultimately, a good grip on immigration status reduces length of time spent on council support saves money for local authorities.

Immigration Support

3 social workers registered with OISC to provide Level 1 immigration advice.

Working with vulnerable people – e.g. low literacy, rough sleepers, adults in care, Gypsy/Roma/Traveller community, mental health problems, lacking mental capacity.

Identify irregularities swiftly, support with EUSS, MCDAC and other pathways.

Referrals-on to OISC Level 2 advisers for complex cases.

**OISC Level 1
social workers
embedded in team**

**Speedy
resolution and
avoid going
down “rabbit
holes”**

**Address
immigration
as soon as
possible**

Thanks for Listening

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