

Agenda

West Yorkshire Sub Regional Migration Group Meeting

Wednesday 11 May 2022, 14:00 – 16:00pm

14:00	1. Welcome, introductions and apologies	Chair	
14:05	2. Minutes of the last meeting – 2 Feb 2022	Chair	Attached
14:15	3. Matters Arising/Action log	Chair	Attached
14:30	4. Ukraine & Regional response – update & discussion	ET	Verbal
14:45	5. Data - statistics dashboard & discussion	QH	Verbal
15:00	6. Complaints Process – discussion regarding current concerns and barriers	Mears/MY	Verbal
15:15	7. Asylum – discussion regarding future partnership work. To include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Dispersal Model • Use of contingency sites • Pressure on front-line services • Support for vulnerable service users 	MY	Verbal
15:55	8. Any other business	Chair	
	Date of next meeting: to be confirmed		

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**WEST YORKSHIRE SRMG:
FEBRUARY 2021**

REDACTED MINUTES OF THE WEST YORKSHIRE SUB REGIONAL MIGRATION GROUP MEETING THAT TOOK PLACE ON 2 FEBRUARY 2022

Attendees

Adam Atack (Chair)	Migration Yorkshire
Beverley Adams	West Yorkshire Police
Murad Ali	West Yorkshire Police
Vanja Celebivic	Migration Yorkshire
Emma Fitzpatrick	Mears
Ben Foord	Migration Yorkshire
Kirsten Fussing	Calderdale Council
Rachel Goodall	Refugee Action
Becky Hellewell	St Augustine's Centre
Qamran Hussain	Migration Yorkshire
Gary Jeffers	Home Office
Fran Mahoney	Home Office
Sarah Mitchell	Kirklees Council
Cllr Carole Pattison	Kirklees Council
Maria Philburn	Bradford Council
Stefan Robert	Migration Yorkshire
Kate Smith	Women Centre
Ally Swadling	PAFRAS
Emma Taylor	Wakefield
Tesfay Waldemichael	Migrant Help

Apologies

Nicki Batley	Mears
Pria Bhabra	Leeds
Jane Callaghan	Wakefield Council
Cllr Maureen Cummings	Wakefield Council
Ian Day	Bradford Council
Bill Dennis	Private attendee
Kate James	Migration Yorkshire
Vicky Ledwidge	Migration Yorkshire
Mick Martin	Home Office
Hiron Miah	Bradford Council
Sarah Richardson	Calderdale Council
Cllr Aubrey Smith	Calderdale Council

1.0 Welcome, introductions and apologies

1.1 The chair welcomed attendees and introductions were made.

2.0 Minutes of the last meeting held on 5 October 2021

2.1 The minutes were agreed as an accurate record.

3.0 Matters Arising

3.1 The action log was reviewed and updated.

4.0 Living the Weathers Report

4.1 Vanja Celebivic from Migration Yorkshire delivered a presentation of the Living the Weathers report. The presentation is available at Appendix 1. The following points were noted:

- The research was carried out by interviewing 15 people, from a variety of demographics and backgrounds about their experiences.
- The integration process was explored through two main areas: practical settled-ness (reveals how people live their day-to-day lives in their new country); emotional settled-ness (experiences and aspirations).
- A case study was discussed to illustrate the research.
- There are three main sections of the report:
 - Integration and social relationships – places weather at the centre of the thinking around integration processes.
 - The label ‘refugee’ – how the label shapes people’s daily lives.
 - Meaningful places – where people feel emotionally at ease.
- A query was raised about whether the report makes a recommendation about service users being given a choice about where they are dispersed to. The report does not make any recommendations but it was acknowledged that choice is crucial.
- It is important that lessons learned, reflection and service improvements come from reports like this.
- Any comments or queries about the report can be sent to vanja.celebivic@migrationyorkshire.org.uk
- Vanja is happy to visit partners to discuss the report in more detail if this would be helpful.
- Report <https://www.migrationyorkshire.org.uk/?page=living-the-weathers-riyh>
- Booklet <https://www.migrationyorkshire.org.uk/?page=sketches-of-hope-riyh>

5.0 Statistics – update on progress

5.1 Qamran Hussain from Migration Yorkshire provided a verbal update. Key points are noted below:

- Migration Yorkshire is developing new data and statistics outputs.
- These outputs will use open and publicly available data so they can be shared.
- After a consultation period, Migration Yorkshire identified a need to make outputs more accessible.

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- The outputs will be presented as a series of dashboards through an online platform.
- The first release will be available at the end of February or beginning of March.
- Qamran Hussain will demonstrate the online platform at the next sub-regional meeting.
- S98 data is restricted data from the Home Office. It is included in asylum cluster tables that Migration Yorkshire sends to nominated local authority contacts. The Home Office data pack is also shared with that nominated contact

6.0 Police-led discussion – how can West Yorkshire Police support you and your organisation?

- 6.1**
- The role of the police is to keep people safe.
 - Three key policing purposes are: reduce crime; protect vulnerable people; reassuring the public.
 - Training has been provided to police officers by Migration Yorkshire and PAFRAS. It was acknowledged that it can be an intimidating environment and challenging to get officers to think differently.
 - Good work is being done in support of service users in contingency accommodation.
 - Some joint resources could be developed between the police, local authorities and other partners.
 - Police would be interested to hear from service users about what would work for them.
 - Thoughts of how West Yorkshire Police can support partner organisations can be emailed to Beverley.Adams@westyorkshire.police.uk

7.0 Resettlement and Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

- 7.1**
- Over 400 individuals are expected to have arrived in local authority housing through Afghan resettlement between April 2021 and March 2022.
 - The new Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) formally started on 6 January 2022.
 - Six Afghan resettlement bridging hotels have been stood up in Yorkshire and Humber
 - Approximately 235 UKRS individuals are expected to have arrived in the year 2021/22.
 - The evaluation of the Children and families wellbeing project is now available on the Migration Yorkshire website. The report highlights the impact of this project and the need for this type of specialist support.
 - Restricted information regarding UASC arrivals was shared with the attendees
 - The Home Office has temporarily mandated the National Transfer Scheme due a high number of arrivals of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children coming through from the south coast and because there are so many children without placements.
 - Yorkshire and Humber is actively participating in the mandated scheme

8.0 Refugee Integration Yorkshire & Humber research

- 8.1**
- As reported at Item 5.1, ArcGIS is the online platform that will be used to produce the new data dashboards.
 - Data collection for the research programme under RIYH is ongoing.
 - Migration Yorkshire held an open meeting of the Yorkshire and Humber Migration Research Network in October 2021.
 - Migration Yorkshire supports other local researchers and research studies in an advisory capacity.
 - The deadline for completion of a survey from the Migrant Youth Integration & Empowerment project (MIMY) has been extended to 15 February. The survey can be found at <https://form.jotform.com/213121806076044>
 - Migration Yorkshire produces a weekly migration news roundup every Monday on their website, a weekly selection online of stories about migration-related policy, research and statistics. Reminders are available on Twitter via @MigrationYorks

9.0 Integration and cohesion

- 9.1**
- The AMIF-funded Refugee integration service is in its second and final year.
 - The project is now fully operational with the service in Sheffield going live in January 2022, taking service coverage to 11 local authorities in Yorkshire and Humber.
 - Adam Atack from Migration Yorkshire is going to be meeting with all local authorities to discuss the future of integration services from 2022 including potential gaps and opportunities.
 - Partners can share their thoughts on the future of refugee integration by emailing adam.atack@migrationyorkshire.org.uk
 - Local authority RIS partners have reported low numbers of positive discontinuations from asylum accommodation in recent months suggesting a lower rate of decision-making from the Home Office. The Home Office is currently going to a period of recruitment.

10.0 Hong Kong British National (Oversees)

- 10.1**
- From 31 January 2021, Hong Kong citizens with British National (Overseas) (BN(O)) status, and their family members, have been applying for a Hong Kong BN(O) visa enabling them to live, work and study in the UK.
 - In April 2021, the Government announced a new UK-wide welcome programme to support integration of the new arrivals from Hong Kong, which includes regional Welcome Hubs.
 - The most recent Government statistics show that 88,800 applications for the BN(O) visa were made, with 24,000 applications submitted in Q3 2021.
 - BN(O) visa holders have so far been settled in Leeds, Sheffield, York and Harrogate.

- Migration Yorkshire, in partnership with other SMPs, has commissioned the IOM to deliver sessions on Hong Kong, similar to those they did on Syria and other nationalities. The sessions are taking place in January and February.

11.0 EU & EU Settlement Scheme

- 11.1**
- According to estimates of the EU and non-EU population (year ending June 2021), Poland is still the top non-British nationality.
 - Romania has now overtaken Poland as the top nationality of EUSS applicants overall.
 - Over 6.39 million applications had been made to the scheme by the end of December 2021.
 - Over 300,000 applicants are still waiting for a decision, including more than 25,000 claims that have been paused due to pending prosecution, some of which are caused by the out of date Police National Computer (PNC) records.
 - Hyperlinks are available within the meeting paper on information about various recent changes and developments.

12.0 Asylum

12.1 Home Office update:

- There were 37,562 asylum applications in the year ending September 2021 (relating to 44,190 people).
- This is 18% more than the previous year and higher than at the peak of the European Migration crisis in year ending June 2016 (36,546).
- In the year ending September 2021, there were 14,758 initial decisions made on asylum applications, 6% fewer than the previous year (15,684).
- There was significant increase in applicants from Eritrea, Iran and Albania applications in the past year.
- Various statistics and tables are available within the meeting paper.
- In the year ending September 2021, there were 3,103 asylum applications from UASC, a 3% decrease compared to the previous year (3,202). This represented 8% of all asylum applications, compared to 10% in the previous year.
- There were 2,082 initial decisions relating to UASC, 23% higher than the previous year (1,687).
- The focus remains on moving out service users that have been in contingency accommodation the longest.
- The Home Office is looking to move families out into regions across the country where they are more likely to stay long term.
- The aim is to move families from initial accommodation to dispersal accommodation within 9-13 weeks of arrival in IA.
- Work is ongoing to improve access to education for children in contingency accommodation.
- Gary Jeffers asked Home Office and Department for Education colleagues whether there is any additional funding available to support local authorities

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with the additional costs they have incurred in supporting service users. Unfortunately no funding is currently available.

- The Home Office has made some recommendations to ministers about additional funding for local authorities and these are still being considered.
- Emergency Cash Payments (ECPs) are made to service users that are accommodated by Mears whilst they are waiting to receive their Aspen cards.
- ECPs are £40 per person per week, and they are requested where Aspen cards have not been received or when they have been lost or stolen.
- Help with Aspen cards is available through the Migrant Help helpline.
- The Home Office deals with ECP requests in chronological order within 24 hours.
- There is currently a review ongoing about payment of ECPs. The Home Office is looking at how ECP issues can be dealt with out of hours and is considering the potential for providers to self-authorise ECPs where children are involved.
- The 3Plus3 asylum service standard project has been running since November 2021 and since then, progress has been made on working through some issues. An enhanced screening process and triage procedures have been stood up but there have been difficulties with finding service users in accommodation where decisions can be made. A service standard is not yet being delivered but work completed so far has helped to address some issues within the system.
- The asylum decision pilot in Bradford was considered a success and provided a user-friendly service. However, the pilot will not be taken forward at this time due to challenges with finding service users that are suitable for the scheme and the availability of dispersal accommodation.
- Intake is higher than expectations and is expected to rise further.
- Plans are in place throughout the end-to-end structure to get service users through the asylum system as quickly as possible.
- There are various transformation programmes in progress.
- The Home Office is looking to expand its asylum operations decision-making unit considerably. Recruitment is ongoing and the aim is to recruit an additional 1,000 decision makers.

12.2 Family reunion:

- Family reunion is the main route for service users to apply for visas to allow their spouses and children under 18 years of age to join them in the UK.
- There have been a significant number of applications from Afghan nationals located outside of Afghanistan since the takeover of the country by the Taliban.
- The Home Office will be adding an additional paragraph in the family reunion visa issue letter, advising service users to contact their local authority as soon as possible if they require additional support.

12.3 Mears update:

- Whilst the number of service users housed in contingency accommodation continues to rise, a sustainable exit strategy remains a key business priority.

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- There are no definitive timescales on the exit strategy as procurement of dispersal accommodation continues to be challenging due to a number of factors including market conditions.
- Procurement of both family and single (HMO type) dispersal accommodation continues.
- The number of contingency accommodation sites being stood up has increased.
- Covid measures remain in place at contingency sites including activities coordinated with reduced groups, use of Covid risk assessments and visitors having to present negative lateral flow tests.
- Mears has worked in partnership with healthcare partners to facilitate vaccinations for service users in IA sites across the region and will continue to work collaboratively with healthcare leads to support vaccination clinics at any new IA sites coming online.
- The Mears update paper includes data on discontinuation figures for service users with a planned departure date up until 4 February 2022 for West Yorkshire.
- Mears continues to engage with local authorities and key representatives from the voluntary and community sector.
- Emma Fitzpatrick can be contacted at emma.fitzpatrick@mearshousing.co.uk for information about Mears Foundation grant funding.

12.4 Migrant Help update:

- The First Response Centre based in Cardiff is very busy, with high volumes of calls being received.
- The team has continued to see progress, increasing the number of calls answered each day and reducing the average wait time to get through to services despite further increases to the volume of calls coming through.
- More call handlers are being recruited, with an additional 40 staff so far that have started at the FRC.
- A lot of calls are being received about Aspen cards.
- 140-160 asylum support applications are submitted daily, and 25,000 Aspen cards have been issued nationally.
- Recruitment is ongoing to fill vacancies at the second-tier support EAGL team, but forecasting staffing requirements is challenging.
- The number of service users assisted by Outreach continues to increase. On average 125 service users were assisted each week last month.
- An increasing number of service users are receiving face to face appointments, following the latest Government advice.
- The positivemoveon@migranthelpuk.org inbox is monitored by the Migrant Help Outreach and Move-On Manager and her deputy. This is the escalation route to answer concerns or queries relating to the move-on service.
- Supporting service users with completion of asylum support applications continues to be the main priority for Migrant Help.
- A new client adviser has started at the Migrant Help Napier Barracks office.

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- Regionally, the focus remains on supporting new arrivals into the asylum system by completing an initial induction, verbally or in writing via a new induction leaflet issued by the AASC at point of arrival, and the Asylum Support Form (ASF).
- This month Migrant Help issued just over 2,500 Aspen cards, another month on month increase of around 25%.
- There has been an amendment to the Asylum Support Regulations 2000, increasing the rate of asylum support from £39.63 to £40.85 per person per week. The additional payment rate of £8 per week for those living in full board accommodation is also increasing to £8.24 a week. These rates come in from 21 February 2022.

12.5 Migration Yorkshire statistics and recent developments:

- The latest Home Office statistics for asylum and resettlement were published on 25 November 2021, showing data up to the end September 2021. The full datasets are publicly available and can be viewed at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/asylum-and-resettlement-datasets>
- The number of grants of protection and alternative forms of leave in the year ending September 2021 included:
 - 10,725 grants of asylum, up 22% compared with the previous year (to June 2021).
 - 964 grants of humanitarian protection, up 8% compared with the previous year.
 - 350 grants of alternative forms of leave following an application for asylum, down 15% since the previous year.
- The number of S95 dispersed clients in it Y&H sub regions as at September 2021 was: South Yorkshire 1,785; West Yorkshire 3,156; Humber 541. Please note, this data only includes those on Section 95.
- The Nationality and Borders Bill is currently making its way through the parliamentary process. Migration Yorkshire had written a briefing on it.
- There will also be an official inspection from the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration of the way in which people are processed at Tug Haven in Kent after arriving on small boats.
- Data contained within the asylum cluster table is restricted. Please contact Migration Yorkshire for more information.

13.0 Other updates

- 13.1
- The latest policy update should provide some useful information for partners. Full details are available in the meeting papers.

14.0 Any other business

- 14.1
- The British Red Cross international family tracing team is currently closed due to a data breach. A statement is available on their website at <https://www.redcross.org.uk/get-help/find-missing-family>

15.0 Date of next meeting

15.1 Wednesday 11 May, 2.00-4.00pm
Teleconference

Ben Foord, Migration Yorkshire
9 February 2022

West Yorkshire Sub Regional Migration Group

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Chair: Cllr Mary Harland
 Date created: 28/09/2021
 Last updated by: Ben Foord
 Date last updated: 02/02/2022

	Open action
	Open for monitoring
	Closed

No:	Date raised	Action	Action owner	Response/ progress	Date closed
1	02/02/2022	Adam Atack to speak to Ewa Jamroz about providing a regional and local breakdown for EU and Hong Kong settlement.	VL	07/03/22 - Vicky Ledwidge to lead.	
2	02/02/2022	Meeting attendees to share their thoughts with Beverley Adams on how West Yorkshire Police can best support partners.	All		
3	02/02/2022	Vicky Ledwidge to have a discussion with Beverley Adams and VCS partners about West Yorkshire Police hearing views of service users about how they feel they can best be supported.	VL		
4	02/02/2022	Fran Mahoney to provide an update at the next meeting on progress made on development of the 3Plus3 service quality standard.	FM		
5	05/10/2021	Home Office will add an additional paragraph in family support letter, to advise service users to contact LA if they require additional support	GJ	02/02/22 - Gary Jeffers to raise with a colleague in Asylum Support to move forward.	
6	09/06/2021	Vicky Ledwidge to clarify with Gary Jeffers why full asylum data including numbers of services users on Section 95 and Section 98 are not always shared and Gary Jeffers to chase the data ask request again.	VL, GJ	07/03/22 - This data is not routinely received from the Home Office.	07/03/2022
7	05/10/2021	Adam Smith to raise with Red Cross that local authorities are interested in being involved in meetings with the Home Office and Red Cross re looking at how to facilitate necessary information sharing with local authorities, whilst protecting service user data in line with GDPR requirements.	MY	02/02/22 - Adam Smith felt that due to the nature of the meeting, it would not be appropriate for local authorities to be a part of it.	07/03/2022
8	05/10/2021	Vicky Ledwidge to obtain a breakdown by local authority of the latest locally collected UASC data.	VL	02/02/22 - Information included within the meeting papers.	02/02/2022
9	05/10/2021	Gary Jeffers to confirm whether a briefing note from the Home Office about changes to the data that is provided can be shared.	GJ	02/02/22 - This was agreed and shared.	02/02/2022
10	05/10/2021	Gary Jeffers to confirm what is happening at a national level re missing persons from contingency accommodation.	GJ	02/02/22 - The Home Office work with police to share tinformation on trends around human trafficking. The police take this information into their national investigation.	02/02/2022
11	05/10/2021	Vicky Ledwidge to share the latest EUSS data with meeting attendees.	VL	02/02/22 - Email sent 08/11/21.	08/11/2021
12	05/10/2021	Kate James to share findings from the question that was asked about COVID in the July 2020 opinion poll, carried out as part of the Communities up Close and Refugee Integration Yorkshire and Humber projects.	KJ	02/02/22 - Response provided at Appendix 2 of the minutes.	02/02/2022
13	05/10/2021	Vicky Ledwidge to share the Migrant Help Wakefield email address with VCS colleagues and Emma Fitzpatrick to share it with Mears staff. This address should be used to escalate issues with service user ASPEN card payments - iaadminwakefield@migranthelpuk.org	VL, EF	02/02/22 - Email sent 08/11/21	08/11/2021
14	09/06/2021	Gary Jeffers to progress the request for an estimate of volume of property procurement at a local level to help the VCS plan their delivery.	GJ	02/02/22 - There is little than can be done with this as procurement is dependent on property availability. Procurement will continue as quickly as market conditions allow.	02/02/2022
15	05/10/2021	Vicky Ledwidge to recirculate details on the process for reporting issues and concerns to the Home Office, through the issues log that is held by Migration Yorkshire.	VL	02/02/22 - Email sent 08/11/21.	08/11/2021
16	09/06/2021	Emma Fitzpatrick to provide Migration Yorkshire with information detailing the ECP process. Migration Yorkshire will then share this with meeting attendees.	EF	02/02/22 - ECPs are issued to service users upon dispersal whilst they wait for an Aspen card. ECPs must be requested through Migrant Help.	02/02/2022



**SRMG:
MAY 2022**

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For information: Members are asked to note the report.

Resettlement, Relocation

Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy (ARAP) and Afghan Citizens Relocation Scheme (ACRS) scheme

1. Migration Yorkshire are co-ordinating the schemes for our Y & H local authority partners, as we have done for the resettlement programme. Information about the ARAP scheme can be found on the Home Office websites:
[Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy: further information on eligibility criteria, offer details and how to apply - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy)
2. The new Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) formally started on the 6th January 2022. Further information can be found here: [Afghan citizens' resettlement scheme - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme)
3. 'Wrap-around' support is being provided in the bridging hotels by the local authorities, Horton housing and the Refugee Council.
4. Resources have been provided through Home Office Funding Instructions (F.I's) for the Wrap-around support in hotels, ARAP and ACRS. The F.I's allow for 3 years support for the families.
5. There have been significant challenges in responding to increasing asks from the HO, regarding our regional response, particularly around holding hotels, pledging additional numbers and finding additional suitable housing. All regional local authorities have been working extremely hard in response to this call and the HO have acknowledged this and sent their thanks and appreciation of all the efforts made.
6. Most LA's have now confirmed their pledged number of arrivals for 2022/23 and Migration Yorkshire are working towards supporting these allocations and arrivals into LA properties.

Refugees Resettled under UKRS (UK Resettlement Scheme)

7. Most LA's within the Y & H resettlement partnership have now made pledges for the coming year 2022/23. This figure is in addition to the ARAP/ACRS pledge.
8. Migration Yorkshire have worked closely with these LAs and the Refugee Council to ensure robust support plans are in place for self-isolation on arrival, testing and meeting all the tracing requirements. Flexibility around arrival

dates due to Covid-19 restrictions has been required, as flights and other details change.

9. Whilst no new announcement has been forthcoming regarding the numbers and F.l's from the Home Office for 2022/23, it is expected shortly and assumed will mirror the 3 year support as set out in the ARAP/ACRS F.l's.

Children and Families Wellbeing Project

10. The Children and Families Wellbeing Project was developed in 2018 by Migration Yorkshire, local authorities and VCS in Y&H. It aims to address the complex trauma faced by some young resettled refugees which is having an impact on their family life, school attendance/behaviour and ability to integrate.
11. The evaluation of the project is now available from Migration Yorkshire. The evaluation highlights the impact of the project, the need for this type of specialist support and has many case studies that make compelling reading. A copy of the report is available on [Migration Yorkshire's website](#).

Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR)

12. Whilst the HO have announced that new arrivals will come with ILR, this, as yet, has not started and refugees continue to arrive with five years leave to remain. Each family has to apply for ILR (Indefinite Leave to Remain) at the five year point. Migration Yorkshire have worked with Legal Aid Solicitors and Refugee Council to develop a regional co-ordination project to support each individual and family to make the application. This is to ensure that resettled refugees do not find themselves without status (and the consequences of that) in our region.
13. Should you require further information regarding the ILR process for resettled clients please contact Muhammad:
Muhammad.nayyer@refugeecouncil.org.uk

Ukraine Update

14. In response to the Ukraine crisis, the government has launched three [new immigration routes](#) supporting Ukrainians to come to the UK and for those already in the UK to extend their stay. These new routes are collectively known as Ukraine Scheme. The first route is the [Ukraine Family Scheme](#) route which enables Ukrainian family members of people in the UK to join them on a three-year visa. The second route, the [Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme](#) enables individuals, businesses, community groups and local authorities to sponsor individuals with no family ties in the UK to UK on three-year visa. The third route is the Ukraine Extension Scheme which will enable those already in the UK to extend their leave for up to three years. This route opens on 3 May 2022. All three routes will provide up to three years leave to remain, the right to work and access to public funds.
15. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities is leading on the implementation of the sponsorship element of the Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme launching the [Homes for Ukraine Scheme](#) on the 14th March 2022 with potential sponsors able to register online. Sponsors are expected to accommodate arrivals for at least 6 months. Funding is available in the form of £350 per month for sponsors and £10,500 to local authorities per person.

[Source: DLUHC]

16. Home Office [official statistics](#) reveal as of 20 April 2022 32,500 people have been issued a visa on the Ukraine Family Scheme and 39,300 on the Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme [Homes for Ukraine]. [Local authority-level data](#) is also publicly available for visas issued under the Homes for Ukraine scheme. As of 19 April, there have been 1,708 visas issued to sponsors living in the Yorkshire and Humber region. North Yorkshire is the local authority with the highest number of visas issued. [Source: Gov.uk]
17. Amendments made by the government have enabled this cohort to access public services without delay. An amendment was made to [The Allocation of Housing and Homelessness Regulations](#) enabling local authorities to provide housing and homelessness support to Ukrainians. A further amendment was made to the [Social Security Regulations](#) exempting this group from the Habitual Residence Test and a third amendment was made the [NHS Regulations](#) exempting them from overseas charging for secondary healthcare. [Sources: UK Legislation, gov.uk]
18. Migration Yorkshire has been working at pace to respond to the policy developments around Ukraine and support local authorities to carry out their role under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme. Migration Yorkshire recently held workshops on safeguarding, housing and integration and is hosting weekly meetings with local authorities. We are currently working to formalise our regional role supporting local authorities to respond to migration under the Ukraine Scheme. Criteria for the Refugee Integration Service has also been extended to include Ukrainians on any of the above schemes to access the service.

Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC)

19. UASC continue to arrive in Yorkshire and Humber, and Migration Yorkshire work closely with all local authorities. There has been a significant increase intake in UASC from December 2021 and an increase in a number of care leavers.
20. The majority of UASC arrive in Yorkshire and Humber(Y&H) through the National Transfers Scheme (NTS) but UASC also continue to arrive in the region spontaneously.
21. The Home Office continue to transfer UASC through the mandated NTS across the country. The scheme will be kept under review and the length of time for mandating will be determined by a range of factors including intake levels and how long it takes to end the use of hotels for unaccompanied children.
22. The Home Office has included a number of clauses within the Nationality and Borders Bill (2022 Act) to strengthen and improve processes for assessing age. This includes the establishment of a decision-making function in the Home

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Office, referred to as the NAAB (National Age Assessment Board), which will have the power to conduct age assessments on age disputed persons, upon referral from a local authority in England, Wales and Scotland or a Health and Social Care Trust in Northern Ireland, or, in some cases, upon referral from the Secretary of State. Local authorities will retain the ability to conduct their own age assessments if they wish to do so. The NAAB minimum viable service will become operational two months after the Bill receives Royal Assent, initially offering a limited number of age assessments, building up incrementally to full capacity. [Source: Home Office].

23. The Home Office have shared a draft guidance sets out the policy and procedures for the operation of the NAAB and on the wider processes required by clauses 49 and 50 of the Bill.
24. The Home Office are also creating a new statutory right of appeal for those wishing to challenge age assessment outcomes where the person is subject to immigration control - these appeals will replace judicial review as the mechanism for legal challenge in these cases. Home Office informed that they do not expect the appeal right to be available before April 2023 and will confirm in due course when procedural rules, legal aid and other systems are in place for hearing these appeals. The Bill also includes clauses on the use of scientific age assessment methods to assess age; Home Office are currently seeking scientific advice around the use of these methods and no formal decisions have therefore been made on their use. [Source: Home Office].

Welcoming Young Refugees (WYR)

25. We continue to work with local authorities to promote best practice across all areas of supporting UASC for the second year of RIYH. We are however only providing a very limited service at the moment as we are still recruiting to cover staff who went on maternity leave. We offer ongoing support and training on a regional basis as well as providing useful resources to carers and practitioners across all the 15 LAs.

**WEST YORKSHIRE SRMG:
MAY 2022**



Migration Yorkshire
supporting local migration services

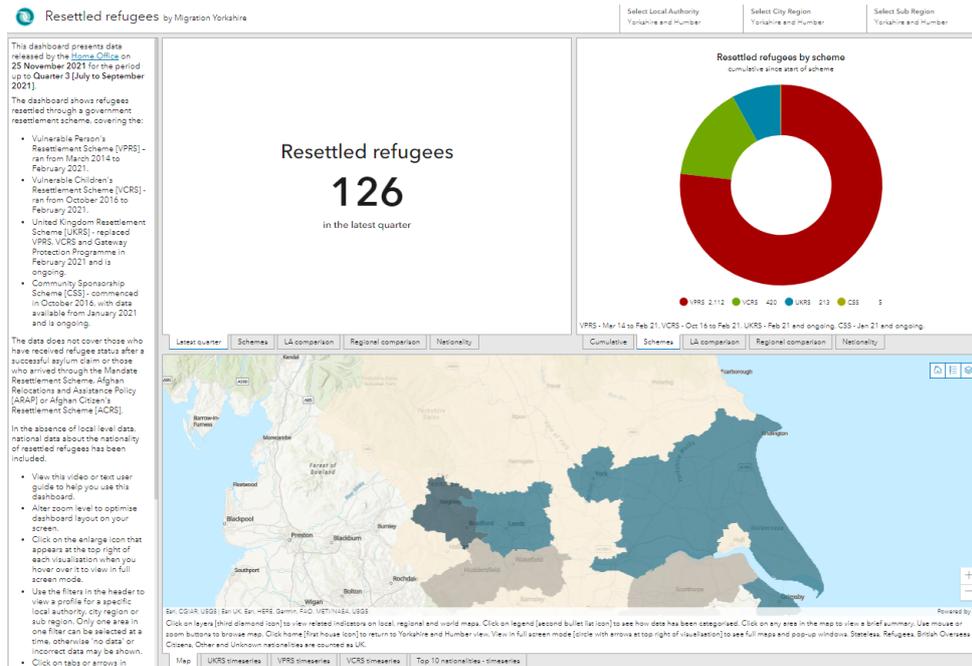
For information: Members are asked to note the report.

RIYH research and statistics

Statistics

1. We have produced a new [briefing on Communities affected by the conflict in Ukraine in Yorkshire and Humber](#), making use of preliminary Census 2021 country of birth data released by the Office for National Statistics to enable local areas to coordinate emergency response planning.
2. In February we launched a set of [four interactive data dashboards](#) to help increase knowledge and awareness of migration trends, influence policy and strategy, and support development of evidence-based services for the communities we work with. Dashboards include publicly available local data about resettled refugees, unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, S95-supported asylum seekers, and the EU settlement scheme. *Figure 1* provides an illustration of the refugee resettlement dashboard as an example. Please share the dashboard link as we want to encourage more people to use them [we've had 700 views so far].
3. An initial series of demonstration events have supported around 100 people to use the dashboards, to complement video and written user guides. To request a demonstration, contact gamran.hussain@migrationyorkshire.org.uk
4. The dashboards will be updated quarterly as Home Office data is released. Other dashboards including wider migration indicators will soon follow.

Figure 1: Resettled refugees dashboard



Research

- The next open meeting of the [Yorkshire and Humber Migration Research Network](#) on Friday 13 May 1-3pm will focus on the topic of co-producing research with researchers who have lived experience of migration. To attend, please [register on Eventbrite](#).
- The network aims to bring together researchers with an interest in migration from across the region, to encourage information sharing, networking and collaboration. For more information about the network contact kate.james@migrationyorkshire.org.uk or Tesfalem.yemane@migrationyorkshire.org.uk for the postgraduate group.
- Data collection for the RIYH research programme is continuing; we're grateful to all the stakeholders who have participated in interviews and focus groups about housing for refugees, initial assessments for ESOL learners, professional bodies for skilled workers, and about social mixing and isolation.
- We're planning a new study, Mapping Hospitality, in response to the Homes for Ukraine programme. We plan to carry out research with potential hosts to explore the expectations and motivations behind hosting practice and how hospitality and the practice of hosting shape the processes of integration. For more information, get in touch with vanja.celebic@migrationyorkshire.org.uk.
- The [Migration news roundup](#) continues to provide an up-to-date summary of local, national and international stories about migration-related policy, research and statistics online every week.

Pip Tyler and Qamran Hussain
Migration Yorkshire
April 2022

**WEST YORKSHIRE SRMG:
MAY 2022**



Migration Yorkshire
supporting local migration services

For information: Members are asked to note the report.

Integration and cohesion

Refugee Integration Yorkshire and Humber

1. The Refugee Integration Service (RIS) is now in its 2nd and final year of our current AMIF-funded programme. The service is now fully operational.
2. The RIS service is aimed at supporting new refugees with integration support. However, recently there has been some widening of the scope for eligible beneficiaries on the project. We have now had approval from the UKRA to support some individuals granted under family and private life grounds and the recent developments in UK immigration policy regarding Ukrainians has meant that we are able to work with Ukrainian arrivals on the Ukraine Scheme visas. Some RIS partners are already working with beneficiaries from this cohort. This has enabled local authorities in being able to quickly stand up a much-needed resource to work with this vulnerable group.
3. The number of beneficiaries supported through the RIS has risen in recent weeks, partly as a result of the widening eligibility, however, figures still remain below targets set with the UKRA. Challenges to achieving these targets have occurred as a result of COVID-19 and the low numbers of positive discontinuations through the asylum support system. Migration Yorkshire is engaging with UKRA over the issue and also with asylum accommodation provider Mears to improve data sharing over positive move-on cases as part of our strategic role in the region.
4. Several RIS partners have recently had to undergo staff recruitment following substantive staff moving on, such as Sheffield, Leeds, Calderdale and Wakefield which has impacted service provision in some of these areas.

Connecting Opportunities

5. Across the project, as an alternative to remote support, both participants, volunteers and staff have been enjoying more face- to- face meetings, network events and group sessions, which has proved beneficial for engaging participants, building trust and in renewing the enthusiasm of taking part in the project. Feedback has been that people are looking to be more socially active after two years of lockdowns and restrictions.
6. Alongside continuing to deliver Key working, Employment, English Language and Wellbeing Support our befriending integration/ social activities and the range of support provided by our volunteer Befrienders has been hugely beneficial over the last few months e.g., helping to make GP appointments, exploring local gyms, organising walking groups, coffee mornings, cooking

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sessions, a visit to Bradford City Hall and Leeds City Museum, a trip to watch Leeds Rhinos rugby game, tour of Leeds Central Library and a Water Taxi experience. Befriending is having a major impact on giving participants a sense of belonging and making them feel less isolated.

7. The project recently produced a video highlighting the impact of the service on two participants <https://vimeo.com/691420272>. We have also started to plan and organise a CO in person celebration event, for July 2022, for participants, volunteers, staff and other stakeholders. It will provide an opportunity for all stakeholders to re-connect again and provide an opportunity to share learning and demonstrate any impact.
8. Examples, of some recent challenges include: ongoing turnover and recruitment of some Keyworking staff in some areas; engagement of young people, with some suffering from social anxiety and a lack of motivation; understanding and awareness of changes to evidencing the '*Right to Work*'; emergency housing/eviction issues remain; due to skeleton staff, participants being unable meet their job coaches, resulting in a high reliance on their Keyworkers.
9. From January 2022, all geographical areas have been open and referrals have continued to increase over the last few months. Up to the end of March 2022, the project had supported 1555 participants and of these 62% are woman migrants, with the majority joining families in the UK. This rate of female participants has continued to remain steady at this level.
10. In terms of participants by regions this has remained fairly constant, 39% live in Leeds, 23% Bradford, 14% Kirklees, 10% Calderdale, 13% Wakefield and 1% North Yorkshire areas. The top nationality for refugees continues to be Sudanese (24%) and then Iranian (22%) whilst Pakistani (30%) and then Polish (10%) is the most common nationality among other migrants. We are also now starting to support a number of individuals from Hong Kong British Nationals Overseas (HK BNOs), particularly in Leeds, who have varied levels of English skills. In addition, we have received recently a newly arrived Ukrainian referral.
11. Despite the pandemic and the many challenges, participants have still continued to exit into employment (25%); 18% have accessed well-being/mental health support; 37% have accessed mentoring/befriending activities; 71% have participated in English Language Learning of which 59% have progressed to higher levels; 65% feel closer to the job market and 47% feel more empowered since joining the project.
12. Due to current ESF funding for the delivery of CO project ending 31st March 2023, sourcing funding for beyond this date is now our priority.

Additions beyond the Policy update paper

13. These items are intended to update and complement the information in the Policy Update paper (dated March 2022) attached for information as Item (14).

14. Several West Yorkshire councils fed into 'Everybody's business', a report on [a report on how businesses can help improve social cohesion](#) in the workplace and beyond, and how councils can support them to do this. [Source: Belong]
15. [A report on creating better futures for refugees](#) in Bristol and the west of England examines the impacts of the current local and regional policies on people seeking sanctuary in the UK, and identifies opportunities in several areas including housing, health, and pathways to employment. [Source: ACH]
16. A new briefing presents [localised findings on public attitudes towards labour migrants during the pandemic](#), including a finding that the skill level of migrants is seen as most important here in Yorkshire and Humber. [Source: Migration Observatory]
17. The [latest IPSOS immigration attitudes tracker](#) indicates that 75% of people are supportive of countries including the UK taking in refugees fleeing war or persecution [note that the polling was done prior to the Ukraine invasion], with broad support shown across age groups and political parties, and attitudes having become warmer overall since 2016. The results are more complex in relation to small boat crossings and current policy. [Source: British Future]
18. This article advises that our [government may have misjudged the public's attitude to supporting Ukrainian refugees](#). A recent YouGov poll showed [the British public supports a resettlement scheme for Ukrainians](#) and broadly believes the country has a moral obligation to offer asylum, though there is a divide between party voters. [Sources: the Guardian, YouGov]
19. This article about [what Europe, and the UK in particular, could learn from history in our response to Ukrainian refugees](#) highlights the importance of education for refugee children, to invest in their future and provide positive experiences. [Source: VOX EU]
20. In [a series of interviews with Britons from Jewish backgrounds](#) who have signed up to host Ukrainian refugees - including a woman in York - they reflect on their personal history, of how their relatives fled persecution and how this has informed their own reactions. [Source: Independent]
21. Migration Yorkshire contributed to this article which considers some of the [experiences of new arrivals from Hong Kong via the BNO visa route](#). [Source: South China Morning Post]
22. The Independent Office for Police Conduct [IOPC] has made [18 recommendations for Police to tackle the unfair use of stop and search](#) against those from ethnic minorities based on 'stereotypes and racial bias'. [Source: the Guardian]
23. The Hopeful Towns Project has released a [new guide on using local news to combat disinformation and promote positive narratives](#) around migration and diversity. The guide explores how local news outlets – particularly local papers – can reach different audiences, promote 'good news' stories and challenge rising anxieties on social media. [Source: Hope Not Hate]
24. [The annual 'State of HATE 2022' report outlines trends in far right activity](#). [Source: HOPE not hate]
25. In arts and culture,

- A new exhibition in Liverpool will highlight the story of [John Blanke, a court trumpeter for Henry VIII who was one of the first people of African descent to be visually documented in British records](#), challenging the misconception that Tudor England was exclusively white. [Source: the Guardian]
 - As part of a radio series on Britain's museums and how they represent us, [Leicester Museum and Art Gallery chose a piece by a German expressionist painter to express the city's history with refugees](#) both as a result of the Second World War and in its commitment to being a place of sanctuary today. [Source: BBC, 14 minutes]
 - A [new photography exhibition highlights representation and misrepresentation of northern communities](#), including issues such as immigration. [Source: the Guardian]
 - Leeds rap artist and MOBO winner [Graft features in a new documentary sharing his experience of growing up in Leeds and his need to trace his African roots](#). In the same series, also see Jassa Ahluwalia's story, asking 'am I English?' and Kema Kay's story about 'belonging'. [Source: BBC, 29 minutes]
 - One for music fans, this article delves into [the experiences of older black British musicians](#) over the years of their careers. [Source: the Guardian]
26. Local stories about migrants in Yorkshire and Humber include:
- [Vigils were held across Yorkshire](#) to show solidarity with those in Ukraine, and examples of support for refugees fleeing the war include in [North Yorkshire, East Riding, Leeds](#) and [Halifax](#). The [voices of the Ukrainian community in our region have also been heard](#). [Sources: Yorkshire Post, Scarborough News, Planet Radio, the Guardian, The Times, Yorkshire Evening Post]
 - [Marianne from Yorkshire and her mum, who joined her in the UK under the Ukrainian Family Scheme, reflect on their experiences](#) of the visa application process. As the government implements its Homes for Ukraine programme, [residents from across Yorkshire have shared their experiences of housing and supporting refugees and asylum seekers](#) from other countries. [Source: BBC News]
 - [The Archbishop of York appeared on breakfast TV to talk about potentially hosting a Ukrainian refugee](#) and expressed his hope the current situation would help change British attitudes towards all refugees, not just those from Ukraine. [Source: Good Morning Britain via twitter]
 - Wakefield-based [Iranian artist, Mohammad Barrangi, has a new solo exhibition at Wakefield's Art House](#): 'Dreamland'. Barrangi's association with The Art House began with a 'Studio of Sanctuary' residency. [Listen to find out more about the exhibition](#) which explores the artist's experiences of immigration and disability. [Sources: The Art House, Soundcloud]
 - [Calderdale Valley of Sanctuary writes about Curious Motion](#), a community organisation working with local people having difficulties accessing opportunities, including refugees and asylum seekers. [Source: Calderdale VoS]
 - [Roots Mbili Theatre has received five-star reviews](#) for the current touring production of [Far Gone, a play inspired by personal experience of John Rwothomack](#), the play's writer and actor, of being child in Uganda and young black man in the UK. Performances have taken place in Hull, Harrogate and

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- Scarborough. [Sources: Twitter, jrwothomack]
- Local [Beeston artist Thahmina Begum has created the exhibition 'Saris and street signs'](#) which focuses on exploring heritage and identity through the voices of the women who live there, commissioned as part of a community project 'My World My City My Neighbourhood'. [Source: Leeds 2023]

Stefan Robert
Vanessa Lenzionowski
Pip Tyler
April 2022

**SRMG:
APRIL 2022**

For information: Members are asked to note the report.

Hong Kong British National (Overseas)

Policy

1. The [government announced](#) that it is extending the British National (Overseas) (BN(O)) visa scheme to more young Hongkongers, enabling individuals aged 18 or over who were born on or after 1 July 1997 and who have at least one BN(O) parent to apply to the route independently of their BN(O) parent. The changes are expected to go live in October. (Source: Parliament)
2. Changes were introduced to [settlement applications for BN\(O\) visa holders](#) meaning that those who apply for settlement but do not meet the settlement requirements will no longer be refused, but instead will be granted further BN(O) leave, if they continue to meet the BN(O) visa requirements. Those changes take effect from 6 April. (Source: Home Office)
3. [Free school meals entitlement](#) was permanently extended to migrants with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF), including BN(O) visa holders, if they meet savings and income criteria. (Source: Department for Education)

Data and research

4. The most recent [government statistics](#) show that 103,900 applications for the BN(O) visa were made up to 31 December 2021, with 15,600 applications submitted in Q4 2021. Over 90,000 visas have already been granted, but there were 80 refusals last quarter, which are the first recorded refusals on the BN(O) route. (Source: Home Office)
5. The Home Office [survey of BNO visa holders](#) from January 2022 provides more details on characteristics of this group, including family composition. The survey indicates that that most visa holders intend to stay in the UK long term. (Source: Home Office)

Other developments

6. The [results of the national and local VCSE grant schemes](#) have now been announced with [47 projects](#) given the funding until the end of June. There are seven organisations delivering national projects covering employment, mental health support and hate crime reporting, and three organisations – Sheffield Chinese Christian Church, Health for All and Faith Action – are providing more localised support in our region. There is an ongoing controversy surrounding the funding, with two grantees, none from our region, [accused of having links to the Chinese](#)

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[Communist Party](#) (Sources: Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, The Times)

7. The NHS has created an [information pack for Hong Kong nurses wanting to work in the NHS](#), including for those arriving via the BN(O) visa route. The pack is hosted by the Hong Kong Nursing Association (HKNU) which supports over 600 nurses already working or wanting to work for the NHS. The HKNU chair explained that passing the English test is the hardest part of the process of re-entering the nursing profession for this group. (Source: HKNU)
8. [Exiled artists launched a Hong Kong film festival \(HKFF\) in the UK](#) to promote Hong Kong film culture, including screening political films that have been banned by the Hong Kong authorities under a new film censorship law. List of movies can be found of the [HKFF website](#). (Source: Variety, HKFF)
9. There were few press articles on [experiences of Hongkongers settling in the UK](#), including [some political activists](#), with the [co-chair of APPG on Hong Kong](#), Alistair Carmichael MP, claiming integration support provided to Hongkongers 'remains glaringly inadequate'. (Sources: South China Morning Post, Guardian, Politics Home)

Regional work

10. Work on the regional coordination of the welcome programme is ongoing:

Supporting local authority and voluntary sector:

- A regional BN(O) network involving local authority representatives is continuing, with regular meetings and updates.
- The second information session on the Hong Kong Welcome Programme and the rights of BN(O) visa holders for frontline staff from voluntary and statutory sector took place on 25 January and was attended by over 20 individuals.
- The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) delivers information sessions on Hong Kong Special Administrative Region to better understand cultural needs of this new group. Three general sessions took place in February and six further workshops are running until end of June.
- In January, [a new survey for new arrivals from Hong Kong](#) have been launched to better understand English learning needs of this group. Over 280 responses were received from across the region, with the vast majority coming from those settled in Leeds. The findings of the survey were shared with all local authorities to help with planning local ESOL provision.
- Further training sessions for frontline staff, this time on No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) with a focus on the BNO visa holders, were commissioned to prepare statutory and voluntary sector to better understand the needs and support available to destitute BN(O) visa holders and develop local NRPF pathways for this group. Eight training sessions are taking place in May and June.

Direct support to individuals:

- [Hong Kong Hub](#) is being updated regularly with information in English and Cantonese. Over 100 individuals are now signed up to the mailing list to receive monthly newsletters and other local and regional updates.

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- A new dedicated email address has been set up for individual enquiries – HK@migrationyorkshire.org.uk.
- Bilingual leaflets promoting Hong Kong Hub are available and hard copies can be requested from Migration Yorkshire.
- Migration Yorkshire is in process of recruiting for a Cantonese speaking project support to help with the development of the Hong Kong Hub and local outreach.
- Virtual [welcome events](#) are ongoing with fortnightly drop-in sessions covering topics suggested by individuals, such school places, private housing, access to NHS, employment and volunteering. Nine sessions, taken place between October and February, were attended by over 300 individuals.

Coordinating and commissioning regional integration activities:

- Regular email updates are sent to local and national voluntary sector organisations, churches, and community groups.
- Migration Yorkshire meets regularly with regional and national grantees to better understand support they are providing locally and link them with relevant organisations and local authority partners. [A list of organisations providing support to new arrivals is available on the Hong Kong Hub](#).
- Kirklees Citizens Advice and Law Centre has been commissioned to provide a general and legal advice, including immigration advice, to new arrivals in Yorkshire and Humber. Advice is provided in English and Cantonese.
- Hong Kong Advisory Panel has been set up to enable community members to provide input in the development and running of the Welcome Programme in our region. The Panel has 26 members from across ten local authorities and had its first meeting in March.

Ewa Jamróz
Migration Yorkshire
26 April 2022

April 2022

EEA NATIONALS AND EUSS

For information: Members are asked to note the report

EU Nationals

1. Migration Observatory follows the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in warning [not to see the EU Settlement Scheme \(EUSS\) statistics as “better” data on the size of the EU population](#) in the UK, in the light of a [preview of the census results](#) published by the ONS in response to the Ukraine crisis. (Sources: UK in changing Europe, ONS)
2. The Home Office is currently overlooking the lack of comprehensive sickness insurance (CSI) in [applications for citizenship](#) and this approach is expected to continue. Meanwhile, the [EU court](#) found that the UK wrongly insisted on expecting CSI at all meaning that some groups of EU nationals, such as students and those who are self-sufficient are now considered to have right to reside in the UK. (Source: Free Movement)

EU Settlement Scheme

Latest EUSS statistics

3. Nearly 6.55 million applications have been received by [31 March 2022](#), with over 490,000 made after the 30 June 2021 deadline (combination of late applications, applications from family joiners and conversions from pre-settled to settled status). 275,000 applications are still outstanding. (Source: Home Office)
4. [Romania continues to be a top nationality of EUSS applicants](#) overall, followed closely by Poland; each nationality has exceeded 1 million applications. (Source: Home Office)
5. The latest statistics at local authority level (up to the [end of December 2021](#)) show close to 350,000 applications to the scheme in Yorkshire and the Humber. This data is now available in a [data dashboard format](#) on Migration Yorkshire website.
 - Nationality – top five nationalities of applicants in our region remain broadly the same: Poland (26%), Romania (20%), Slovakia (9%), Italy (5%) and Lithuania (5%), with non-EU continuing to account for 5% of applications.
 - Age – rate of applications from children in the region continues to be higher than nationally, with under 18s accounting for 21% of applications, compared to 17% nationally, while older applicants (over 65) account for 2% of applications in Y&H, slightly lower than 3% nationally.
 - Outcomes – 52% have been granted settled status and 39% pre-settled, while other outcomes accounts for 9%, compared to 52%, 41% and 7% nationally. Over 20,000 are still awaiting a decision. (Source: Home Office)

Changes and developments

6. [Funding to support vulnerable applicants apply to the EU Settlement Scheme has been extended again](#) to existing grant-funded projects until at least end of September 2022. [Source: Home Office]
7. The Home Office's [EUSS data protection impact assessment](#) was published. It indicates that gender (sex) is listed as personal data required in the application process, although it is not being included in EUSS published statistics. (Source: Home Office)
8. Changes in the [updated version of the EUSS caseworker guidance](#) shows toughened approach to late applications. [Further explanation to some of these changes](#) is provided on the Free Movement legal blog. (Sources: Home Office, Free Movement)
9. From 6 April, all migrants holding biometric documents, including non-EU family members of EU nationals, need to generate a share code to prove right to rent and work. [New guidance has been issued to employers](#) and [guidance for landlords](#) to reflect this change. They continue to rely on physical documents to prove right to access other services, such as banking and NHS. A share code is [now valid for 90 days](#), instead of 30 days. (Source: Home Office)

Recent issues reported in relation to the progress of the EUSS

10. Delays in processing applications and administrative reviews related to EUSS applications have been reported. At the end of 2021 [over 12,000 applicants were waiting for a decision on their applications for over a year](#), while recent [FOI shows over 9,000 requests for an administrative review](#) of the EUSS decision have been made until end of January 2022, of which less than a quarter have had an outcome. (Source: What do they know)
11. Press reports on distress experienced by EU nationals and their family members caused by [delays in decision-making](#), with many of those who applied using paper applications still [waiting for the return of their documents](#), while academics explore [the consequences of processing delays for 'meritorious' and 'unmeritorious' EUSS applications](#). (Sources: Ferret, Politico, UK in Changing Europe)
12. [Challenges in maintaining digital status](#) has been a focus of the latest 3million's submission to the Independent Monitoring Authority (IMA). Concerns about the [impact of digital status on vulnerable EU nationals at high risk of homelessness](#) have also been raised by Public Interest Law Centre (PILC). Meanwhile, press highlights examples of [non-EU family members holding settled status unable to return to the UK](#) due to their biometric documents expiring and [detained at the border](#) (Sources: Migration Observatory, 3million, PIC, Independent, Guardian)
13. Migration Observatory produced a report on [challenges facing vulnerable pre-settled status holders](#) when applying to convert to settled status in the future. It notes that while challenges are in many respects similar to those facing initial applicants, lack of awareness about the need to reapply and support will make the process more problematic for vulnerable groups. (Source: Migration Observatory)

Ewa Jamróz, Migration Yorkshire
26 April 2022

21st April 2022

AASC Report

West Yorkshire Sub Regional Meeting

Contingency / Hotel Exit Strategy

Whilst the number of Service Users housed in contingency accommodation continues to rise (in common with the trend across the UK), a sustainable exit strategy remains our key business priority. We continue to procure both family and single (HMO type) dispersal accommodation) to deliver this priority. Mears will continue to consider proposal of IA Contingency sites in order to meet demand. Mears have been made aware of the recent proposal from the Home Office to Local Authorities regarding the widening of dispersal areas. Mears will continue to work with both Home Office and Local Authorities to support this initiative and any new dispersal areas and partners.

Complaints procedure:

Mears are keen to ensure a prompt and comprehensive response to any concerns or queries raised by third parties and thank our VCS partners for supporting service users to raise query and/or complaint about their accommodation.

Mears have recently engaged with our valued VCS partners regarding the complaints process. The established complaints procedure is managed and coordinated by the AIRE provider, Migrant Help. We continue to encourage all service users and advocates on behalf of the service user to utilise this channel. This creates a formal audit log which will be visible to the Home Office. Providers are expected to deliver comprehensive responses within allocated timings. We hope this offers VCS and our service users' reassurance that we take any complaint seriously and we are accountable to the Home Office in both our resolution and response.

Customer Satisfaction Surveys:

Further to the above, Mears have in place a platform for SU's to provide completely anonymous feedback about the service they have received within their accommodation in both IA and DA. Our Customer Satisfaction surveys can be accessed online, translation available.

We kindly ask our VCS partners to display our Customer Satisfaction survey posters within community drop-ins across NEYH to encourage our Dispersal Estate to feedback utilising this platform, likewise these same posters are signposted within our IA Estate. All feedback received is analysed for trends across our accommodation estate, helping us to provide a person-centred approach to our service.

Initial Accommodation – Urban House

We continue operating Urban House in line with arrangements and guidance from Public Health Leads. This continues to work well and provide a COVID secure environment for colleagues and Service Users. Maximum capacity at Urban House is currently 280. This is being reviewed with health protection leads and health professionals with a view to continue to increase capacity at Urban House.

Sub-regional Contingency / Hotel Update:

As of 21st April 2022, 2179 Service Users were accommodated in the Contingency / Hotel estate across NEYH.

IA Contingency – West Yorkshire Sub-Region Contingency / Hotel Update as of 21st April 2022

Hotel	<u>Number of Children</u>	<u>Number of families</u>	<u>Number of family SUs</u>	<u>Number of Single people</u>	<u>Total</u>



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Cedar Court Hotel Wakefield	0	0	0	150	150
The Bradford Hotel	0	0	0	113	113
Metro Inn Huddersfield	0	0	0	28	28
The Rock Halifax	0	0	0	23	23
Mercure Leeds City Centre	0	0	0	58	58
Mercure Leeds Parkway				103	103
Holiday Inn Express, Leeds	0	0	0	75	75
Britannia Hotel Mill Green View, Leeds	0	0	0	144	144
The Huddersfield Hotel	0	0	0	45	45
Dubrovnik Hotel Bradford	41	28	92	3	95
Merchants House Bradford	0	0	0	52	52
Kirkgate, Huddersfield Hotel Apartments	0	0	0	13	13
Britannia Buildings, Huddersfield	0	0	0	8	8
IBIS Hotel, 23 Marlborough Street, Leeds	0	0	0	170	170
Alexandra Apartments 39-41 Bolton Road, BD1 4DR	0	0	0	81	81
Wool Merchant Hotel Halifax	40	36	110	6	116
Ibis budget Bradford	0	0	0	83	83

Positive Engagement, Social Inclusion and Social Value:

Mears continues to engage with local authorities and key representatives from the voluntary and community sector to facilitate engagement opportunities for our service users.

We are keen to work with partners to facilitate offers of holistic engagement, opportunities for upskilling and integration with local communities and encourage partners to discuss any scope for support with their local Mears Partnership Manager.

Below are just a few examples of positive engagement, social inclusion, and social value running across our estate:

Wakefield -

- Mental Health awareness sessions in development stages with Health Lead for Inequalities Kerry Murphy. These are in collaboration with HARP and Solace for those in IA and IA contingency. Staff also have the opportunity to access this offer.
- City of Sanctuary – digital inclusion for UH and IA contingency. Over 60 tablets on loan to service users across the IA estate.
- We are Wakefield – continued Art House Projects.
- UH focus groups continue.
- West Yorkshire Student Police Officer project continues – we now have several service users who help co-host this with Partnership Manager Nicki Batley.
- MESMAC continue in reach at Urban House and Cedar Court Wakefield

Bradford –

- PREVENT team from West Yorkshire Police continue to deliver weekly ‘get to know us’ session in IA contingency.
- Bevan Health and Wellbeing deliver activity sessions focussed on ‘healthy minds.
- Bevan Wellbeing activity sessions back in place.

Leeds –



Mears Housing Management Limited is part of the Mears Group and provides services on behalf of Plexus UK (First Project) Limited, Omega Housing Limited and Tando Property Services Limited.

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- Befriending and orientation of Leeds City – Refugee Council remains a great intervention for service users to access the City.

Calderdale –

- ST Augustine’s supported by Mears Partnership Manager to access Mears Foundation grant.
- St Augustine’s continue to deliver in reach support sessions to service users.

Kirklees –

- DASH in reach support to IA contingency continues.
- TSL – this way for English sessions continues.

Miles for Refugees:

This year, Mears colleagues across the business are signed up to take part in Miles for Refugees to support to raise money for refugees in the UK and abroad.

Covid-19 control measures:

Mears continue to review operating procedures to ensure that we are compliant with current government and local authority guidance. Mears are only able to advise and guide service users regarding Covid measures, including mask wearing and social distancing.

All IA sites have a Covid risk assessment in place. This assessment is regularly updated in line with NHS updates, to consider the risks associated with COVID -19.

Under government guidance, we have worked and liaised with VCS partners to facilitate face-to-face VCS support at IA and IA contingency accommodation sites. Visitors are no longer required to provide evidence of a negative Lateral Flow result to be authorised entry to site. The following ask remains in place to ensure the safety of all internal and external staff and service users:

- A decision regarding capacity of SU’s attending on-site activities is made based on take-up amongst residents and available space to be utilised. This will continue to be monitored.
- Arrangements for on-site activities are coordinated between the VCS and Mears Partnership Managers and Resident Welfare Managers supporting IA sites. On-site engagement must be arranged in advance and a register must be taken of any participants.
- VCS and visitors should be confident they have no signs and symptoms of Covid 19 as detailed in government guidance before visiting the hotel.
- Upon arrival visitors will be asked to confirm this to security. They will sign in and security will take and record their temperature – anyone declaring symptoms or who has tested positive will not be granted entry to site. Should any volunteer develop Covid-19 symptoms following their visit, Mears out of hours must be notified immediately.
- All VCS attending IA sites must also have their own Covid risk assessment, approved by Mears Health and Safety to be authorised on site.

Health in IA and IA contingency:

In collaboration with Public Health England Lead (Cathie Railton) and the Home Office, we have developed a consistent healthcare offer now established across all our IA contingency sites. Each GP supporting our IA Sites receives a weekly register detailing all required SU information accommodated at their respective site(s). This register identifies any new arrivals for registration, leavers for deregistration and an overview of all current residents, including highlighted known health needs. This regional approach meets both the needs of our



Mears Housing Management Limited is part of the Mears Group and provides services on behalf of Plexus UK (First Project) Limited, Omega Housing Limited and Tando Property Services Limited.

service users and contractual requirements. In addition, this will assist in managing increasing pressure on our local healthcare partners which has been significant.

Discontinuations:

In line with the Hotel Exit strategy, there is a focus on the effective utilisation of our dispersed accommodation estate to ensure new arrivals have access to accommodation. At present we have the below positive and negative cessations applicable to the Humberside region. Mears and our service users continue to be effectively supported by local authorities in securing move on accommodation.

The tables below show the discontinuation figures for service users with a planned departure date up until 11th May 22.

LA	Home Office Decision	
Bradford	Successful	23
Leeds	Successful	18
Calderdale	Successful	2
Wakefield	Successful	0
Kirklees	Successful	16
Grand Total	Successful	59

LA	Home Office Decision	
Bradford	Negative	1
Leeds	Negative	6
Calderdale	Negative	4
Wakefield	Negative	1
Kirklees	Negative	3
Grand Total	Negative	15





MIGRANT HELP

MONTHLY UPDATE – February and March 2022

FRC UPDATE

- Successful new recruits have joined the team over the last two months, with further recruitment ongoing to increase our overall headcount.
- Our Service User Experience Lead continues to attend sector meetings to provide further information on the use of our alternative contact channels. Please see the links below and supplementary guidance enclosed. If you would like them to join a meeting with you, please let us know and we can arrange this.

-

[Self-Service User Portal](#)

[Webchat](#)

[Webchat portal guide](#)

[Raise an Issue](#)

[Raise an issue guide](#)

Trends:

Trends include those relating to:

- ARCs
- HC2 certificates
- ECP/ASPENS
- Incorrect support payments

EAGL UPDATE

- We are increasing the headcount within the team to support increases in demand. New recruits joined the team during February and March and further recruitment ongoing.

Trends:

- A key trend continues to be requests for S98 support. If you are aware of any clients requiring S98 support, you can email our S98@migranthelpuk.org inbox to request a call back for assistance. Please include the date of destitution, a contact number and client details in the email including name, dob and references. We will then call the client to complete the application ready for submission. Please note that this inbox is for applications for S98 only.
- Back payment requests.

OUTREACH UPDATE

- Our Outreach team have continued to assist a high number of service users throughout February and March both by telephone and through meeting clients face to face.



- Our team of Outreach Advisers are working hard to ensure our most vulnerable service users receive extra support on AIRE related matters.
- If you need to request support for anyone who is at risk or is vulnerable and has struggled to use our other services, please email outreach@migranthehelpuk.org and we will happily advise how we can assist and support.

Trends:

- Supporting Victims of Domestic Violence
- Supporting Victims of Trafficking

MOVE ON NATIONAL UPDATE

- Our partners Bryson Intercultural, Reed in Partnership and Welsh Refugee Council continue to support our clients through our Positive Move on service.
- Our Move On service has been well received from service users with a low number declining our offer of support.
- Our designated escalation pathway for Move on is our positivemoveon@migranthehelpuk.org inbox Please contact this inbox if support is needed with requesting reinstatement if the BRP or Discontinuation letter has not been received (or if there are errors on the BRP).

SERVICE COMMISSIONING FRAMEWORK UPDATE

- For those working with us under the commissioning framework, a counter terrorism check is no longer a requirement. We would welcome enquiries from organisations who would like to explore the possibility of joining our framework which would enable us to pass work through to you for which you would receive a financial payment.
- If you would like to explore this further, please contact Nicola.Davies@migranthehelpuk.org

SU EXPERIENCE FEEDBACK AND UPDATE

- We now have a central page within our website that holds all of the links to our surveys in the top 11 languages. The link is shared with clients via text at the end of calls.

REGIONAL UPDATE

- In February we completed c.3,200 ASFs and induction briefings. The intake remains high which has created a backlog and some cases are taking longer than expected. In March we completed over 3,300 ASFs.
- We have reallocated all available resource, including our Community Liaison Coordinators, to support with ASFs and Inductions which has meant we have scaled back our attendance at meetings in the short term.
- The other main priority remains issuing ASPEN cards, most of which are for SUs in contingency accommodation providing them with the £8 weekly payment. In February and March we issued just under 2,500 ASPEN cards each month.
- We continue to work closely with the AASC providers who are arranging and facilitating communication channels with the Service Users in the contingency sites.

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Regional Operations

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Commissioning Framework

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Move On

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ASYLUM

For Information and Discussion:

Members are asked to note the report.

Asylum statistics

1. The latest Home Office statistics for asylum and resettlement were published on 24 February 2022, showing data up to the end December 2021. The full datasets are publicly available and can be viewed [here](#).
2. There were 48,540 asylum applications (main applicants only) in the UK in the year ending December 2021, 63% higher than the previous year and the highest figure since 2003 (49,407).
 - The top 5 countries of origin were Iran, Iraq, Eritrea, Albania, and Syria.
 - In the year ending December 2021, there were 14,572 initial decisions made on asylum applications, 72% of which were grants of asylum, humanitarian protection or alternative forms of leave (such as discretionary leave or UASC leave). This is the highest grant rate in over 30 years (since 1990).
 - 9,622 claims were identified as inadmissible to the UK's asylum system. 64 were served with inadmissible decisions and 11 were removed on inadmissibility grounds. 5,269 individuals were later admitted to the UK's asylum system.
3. Key points from this asylum accommodation data for the last 12 months are:
 - Nationally there were 84,457 individuals in receipt of asylum support as of 31 December 2021. This includes 54,669 on Section 95 support, 24,175 on Section 98 interim support and 5,613 on Section 4 support.
 - Of the 56,669 on Section 95, 49,949 were supported with accommodation and 4,720 with subsistence only.
4. The number of S95 and S4 dispersed clients in Y&H sub regions as at December 2021 was:

South Yorkshire 2,305
West Yorkshire 3,472
Humber 745
North Yorkshire 4

Redacted

5. Please note, this data only includes those on Section 95 and Section 4 support, so therefore will not include the majority of those in temporary or alternative initial accommodation.
6. The Home Office has also released [official statistics on 'irregular migrants'](#) including those who arrive on small boats. They reported a sharp increase in boats [1,034], people [28,526] in 2021 compared to previous years. The main nationalities of arrivals were Iranian, Iraqi, Eritrean and Syrian. As forecasted crossings in summer months were high, however there were also high numbers of crossings in later months. [Source: Home Office]
7. A [parliamentary briefing analysing the most recent immigration statistics](#) is available online. [Source: House of Commons Library]

Asylum support and dispersal

8. The government has also communicated to local authorities plans to restructure the asylum dispersal system bringing mandatory dispersal with all local authorities in the UK now becoming asylum dispersal areas. Funding will be offered to local authorities in the form of £3,500 per bed space for financial year 2022/23 and a thank you payment of £200 per bedspace for existing dispersal areas as of the 27 March 2022. [Source: Home Office]
9. As part of its New Plan for Immigration the government announced plans to set up a new accommodation reception centre at an RAF site in Linton-On-Ouse in North Yorkshire. The proposed site will accommodate single adult men with an initial capacity of over 500 people. A Home Office [factsheet](#) provides further details on the proposed site. [Source: Home Office]
10. Migration Yorkshire continues to work in partnership with the Home Office, contracted providers (Mears and Migrant Help) and local authorities, supporting local authority engagement regarding asylum dispersal. Current work remain focused around the use of hotels as asylum contingency accommodation, the new proposed reception centre in North Yorkshire and supporting local authorities, Mears and the Home Office towards the implementation of the 'full dispersal' model of potentially dispersing to all local authorities across England, Wales and Scotland.

Asylum policy and operations

11. The government announced a new [migration partnership with Rwanda](#) regarding the offshoring of asylum claims. The partnership intends to transfer asylum claimants who are deemed to have inadmissible to the UK's asylum system to Rwanda to have their claims processed with Rwanda taking over responsibility for offering protection where assessed as eligible. [Source: Gov.uk]
12. The [Nationality and Borders Bill](#) is continues its pathway through the parliamentary process. The Bill seeks to make considerable changes to the UK asylum system and to the provision of asylum accommodation. It's currently in the final stages with the government recently rejecting a second round of amendments tabled in the House of Lords. Relatedly the government also published its response to the public consultation on the [New Plan For](#)

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[Immigration](#) which was undertaken prior to the publication of the Bill. [UK Parliament, Gov.uk]

13. Following the introduction of a new Family Asylum Claims policy the Home Office are conducting a review 6 months after its implementation organisations who would like to respond are able to provide a co-ordinated response to Familyasylumclaimsreview@homeoffice.gov.uk by **Friday 20 May**. [Source: Home Office]
14. The Home Office withdrew its asylum [country guidance policy](#) for Ukraine in February 2022 following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The policy is yet to be replaced with an updated policy. [Source: Home Office]

Stefan Robert
Migration Yorkshire
May 2022



An overview of the latest statistics, policy and research on migration issues affecting partner organisations in Yorkshire and Humber.

Summary

- Initial government announcements about options available to Ukrainians to come to or remain in the UK largely focused on those already in the UK or British nationals with family members in Ukraine. (para. 3)
- Over 28,000 people crossed the Channel in small boats in 2021, over three times the number in 2020. In November, 27 people lost their lives on a single day. (paras. 5,7)
- Report stage of the Nationality and Borders Bill has begun in the House of Lords with voting on amendments, amid continued criticism. (para. 17)
- With continued labour shortages, the Seasonal Worker visa route is extended to the end of 2024 and care workers were added to the Shortage Occupation List. (para. 24)
- Immigration statistics for 2021 show the highest number of asylum applications in the UK since 2003. The cost of housing asylum seekers and Afghan refugees in hotels was revealed at £4.7 million a day. (paras. 40,41)
- Government announced the Afghan Citizen's Resettlement Scheme would open in January. (para. 50)
- All councils are now required to care for unaccompanied children through the National Transfer Scheme. (para. 52)
- The Supreme Court ruled the Home Office can continue to charge whatever it wishes for children to register as British citizens. (para. 57)
- The BN(O) visa scheme is being extended to more young Hongkongers. 47 national and regional projects have been funded to support new arrivals. (paras. 84, 87)
- The White Paper 'Levelling Up the United Kingdom' was published, proposing ways to 'spread opportunity more equally' across the country, including a proposal for a 'Strategy for Community Spaces and Relationships'. (para. 100)
- Broadcasters agreed to stop using the term BAME where possible. (para. 109)
- The situation in Belarus dominated international news over the winter. (paras. 127-130)
- During the Australian Open, Novak Djokovic was held in a hotel used to detain asylum seekers, giving renewed attention to treatment of asylum seekers. (para. 136)
- Local stories about migrant communities include nurses recruited through a scheme for refugees, Afghan footballers arriving in Leeds, a royal visit to a hotel hosting Afghans, and a Sheffield student represented Jamaica in the Winter Olympics. (para. 143)

UK migration trends

1. [The latest migration statistics published by the Office for National Statistics](#) (ONS) provide the first net migration figures released since March 2020, showing how much net migration (the difference between immigration and emigration) plummeted during 2020 because of Covid and Brexit: by 88% to 34,000 people (compared to 2019 when it was 271,000). [India remains the top non-UK country of birth, and Polish is still the top non-British nationality](#) according to estimates of the EU and non-EU population (year ending June 2021). (Source: ONS)
2. [Latest Home Office immigration statistics for 2021](#) cover a range of migration issues – travel for work, study, family and protection reasons as well as visa extensions and citizenship grants – details for different groups are provided throughout this paper. (Source: Home Office)

UK borders and migration policy

Ukraine

3. [The Prime Minister made a statement about Ukraine](#) (and earlier to Parliament on 22 February) followed by Home Office confirmation that [Ukrainians in the UK will be able to extend or change their visa types](#), as well as measures to support family members of British nationals who are in Ukraine or now in a neighbouring country. [The Home Secretary also introduced the promise of a humanitarian sponsorship route](#). [Home Office guidance is available](#) and being regularly updated. (Sources: Prime Minister's Office, Home Office, UKVI)
4. In this radio interview extract [the Chief Executive of Refugee Action calls on the government to respond to the unfolding Ukrainian refugee crisis with more safe routes](#) to the UK via the resettlement scheme, and challenges the government not to use the Nationality and Borders Bill to criminalise those, including Ukrainians, who may be forced to arrive by other routes. (Source: Times Radio on Twitter)

Sea crossings

5. At least [27 lives were lost in November when a boat sank in the Channel](#). A [survivor shared his experience](#) and the BBC published an [hour-by-hour account of the tragedy](#). A [French NGO has initiated legal action against British and French officials](#) while French journalists claim they have [evidence of contact between the people in the boat and French rescue services](#) that was previously denied. (Sources: BBC, Sky News, Independent, RFI)
6. Prior to the tragedy pressure had been building, with [Steve Barclay asked to lead a review](#). The [Home Office apparently refused to release evidence for its claims about 'pull factors'](#). [The Home Secretary laid blame on both the EU and civil servants](#) although later [issued a statement of gratitude for her staff's hard work](#). (Sources: the Guardian, Mirror)
7. [Over 28,000 people crossed the Channel in small boats in 2021](#), more than three times the number in 2020. In November [crossings on a single day exceeded 1,000](#) for the first time. There are predictions that [up to 65,000 people could use the Channel route this year](#). There's consternation in some quarters that [daily figures may no longer be released](#) but instead published quarterly, with the Home Office

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responding to [concerns raised by the statistics watchdog](#). (Source: BBC, Daily Mail, Office for Statistics Regulation)

8. Tension between the UK and France intensified. Even before November's tragedy, amid [plans to strengthen UK-France cooperation](#), [Home Office 'insiders' allegedly accused France of not caring about migrant deaths](#). Following the fatalities [the Home Secretary was uninvited from talks with European ministers](#) after an open letter from the Prime Minister to French President Macron was posted on Twitter, pushing for joint maritime border patrols (since [formally rejected by France](#)) and a bilateral readmissions agreement. French ministers claimed [migrants are encouraged by opportunities to work illegally in the UK](#). A [deal with France to tackle Channel crossings looks unlikely](#) before French elections in April. [President Macron reportedly wants people to be able to claim UK asylum from within France](#). (Sources: Guardian, Daily Mail, Politico, BBC, City AM)
9. The Home Secretary was [criticised for suggesting most arrivals aren't fleeing persecution](#), a stance contradicted by recent statistics showing two-thirds of applicants were granted refugee status when first claiming asylum. Refugee Council [analysis found that people on small boats are largely from countries with the highest asylum grant rates](#). [Government ministers continued to describe crossings as 'illegal'](#) despite December's court ruling that people trying to reach the UK to seek asylum are not committing a crime. [12 people seeking asylum prosecuted for people smuggling offences](#) after steering dinghies, have had their convictions quashed. (Sources: Independent, Refugee Council)
10. The [Royal Navy has been given overall responsibility for operations dealing with small boat Channel crossings](#), although the Ministry of Defence says it [will not enforce the dinghy 'pushback' policy](#). [Yorkshire MPs have commented on the plans](#). Meanwhile [Border Force staff are reportedly considering strike action](#) over the issue, and the union is pursuing a legal challenge jointly with Care4Calais (apparently the [Home Office would likely lose a court challenge](#)). (Sources: BBC, the Guardian, Yorkshire Post)
11. There are reportedly plans for a [new fast track system where asylum claims are assessed within a fortnight](#) of arrival. A [former Australian minister](#) involved in establishing asylum offshoring system will undertake a review of Border Force and assist with the response to small boats arrivals. (Sources: Arab News, Independent)
12. [Inspectors have criticised conditions in holding facilities in the south east](#) for migrants arriving on small boats. Underlining the need for appropriate facilities, it's been reported that in the first 6 months of 2021, [two-thirds of arrivals via small boats were suffering from hypothermia](#). An article highlights the ['less than optimal' standards at a new, temporary reception centre](#) in Kent. (Sources: HM Inspectorate of Prisons, the Guardian, Express)
13. The [Home Office accepts it's been unlawfully confiscating new arrivals' phones](#). However, [the Nationality and Borders Bill will allow for the confiscation of electronic equipment](#), for counter-terrorism purposes. (Independent, Middle East Eye)
14. There have been two recent opinion polls: one found that [4 in 5 people disapproved of the government's handling of the issue](#); in the other [over half agreed migrants arriving in boats should be returned immediately](#). (Sources: YouGov, Express)

15. Here's a reminder of the [reasons people make this dangerous journey](#). Along with others who came to the UK on Kindertransport at the outbreak of World War Two, [Lord Dubs has called for safe and legal routes for refugees](#), and here's an [overview of campaigners' suggested solutions](#). (Sources: Infomigrants, Guardian)
16. Finally, here's a ['fact check' explanation of common questions about small boats](#) (also available on audio) (Source: the Ferret).

Nationality and Borders Bill

17. The [Bill completed the committee stage at the House of Lords](#). [Report stage](#) began, where amendments are voted on. [Amendments tabled](#) would [enable unaccompanied children to join family members in the UK](#), lift the ban on asylum seekers working, and remove clauses on aspects such as offshoring, inadmissibility, and the differential treatment of refugees based on means of entry to the UK. The Home Office published [nine new factsheets relating to the Bill](#) on topics such as safe and legal routes, modern slavery, and powers to stop small boats. Some of the earlier [amendments](#) (80 were tabled by government) are [summarised on this twitter thread](#). There has been widespread consternation about a [government amendment](#) that would allow the [removal of an individual's British citizenship without informing them](#), in certain circumstances. (Sources: UK Parliament, Home Office, Twitter, New Statesman, Free Movement)
18. [Albania, Ghana and Rwanda are rumoured as possible destinations](#) for ['offshoring' asylum seekers](#). (Sources: Sky News, Independent, the National)
19. The [annual cost of implementing the bill has been estimated at £2.7 billion](#). (Source: Together with Refugees)
20. [The Scottish Parliament voted against the Nationality and Borders Bill](#), refusing to consent to the Bill in a motion that said the Bill will damage communities, and [the London Assembly also voted through a motion against the Bill](#), branding it potentially racist in making ethnic minorities second class citizens. Continued commentary, criticism and [protest](#) comes from many directions, including [150 organisations in a joint letter](#), [the Welsh government](#), [Refugee Action](#) and [Amnesty International](#). [Afghan refugees in the UK have voiced their concerns](#) and polling suggests [the public disagrees with plans for a two-tier system](#). (Sources: The National, Independent, IMIX, Welsh Government, Refugee Action, Amnesty International)
21. The Joint Committee on Human Rights argues that [the proposed offence of arriving in the UK illegally would contravene the UN Refugee Convention](#) and that pushback measures are not 'consistent with our human rights obligations'. It also warned [the Bill could make it harder for stateless children born in the UK to acquire British nationality](#) and is critical of [planned changes to age assessments, and deprivation of citizenship orders](#). (Sources: UK Parliament, Independent)
22. There are concerns that [the Bill will make it harder for women \(especially trafficking survivors\) to gain refugee status](#), and that [restrictions to family reunion rights will increase the vulnerability of women and children](#). [Peers have tabled an amendment](#) opposing Clause 32 that, critics say, will make it harder for gender-based persecution victims to successfully claim asylum. Sheffield Hallam MP Olivia Blake has spoken out about the [potential impact on people who are LGBT+](#). (Sources: gal-dem, Refugee Council, Guardian, Independent)

23. It's argued the [proposals on modern slavery](#) will [make it more difficult to identify and support victims](#) and [prosecute traffickers](#). (Sources: UK Parliament, Independent)

Post-Brexit immigration

24. There have been continued labour shortages including in the [agricultural](#) and [hospitality sectors](#). The [Seasonal Worker visa route is being extended to the end of 2024](#). Following recommendations in the [Migration Advisory Committee's annual report](#), [care workers have been added](#) to the [Shortage Occupation List](#). The MAC report also [recommended reviewing on the ban on asylum seekers working](#). (Sources: the Guardian, Gov.uk, Free Movement, Twitter)
25. [Adult Dependent Relative Visas were debated in the Commons](#). A GP warned that [medical staff are leaving the NHS](#) and returning to their countries of origin to care for ageing parents due to the difficulties of them obtaining such a visa, thus adding to staff shortages. (Sources: Hansard, Pulse)
26. There have been [no applications for the new visa scheme aimed at the winners of Nobel prizes](#) and other prestigious awards. [The Home Office closed its 'Golden visa' route](#) (the Tier 1 Investor visa route) amid concerns over security and corruption; this article explores how [Russian oligarchs exploited the visa route](#). (Sources: New Scientist, Home Office, Open Democracy)
27. [Many Turkish businesspeople are reportedly in limbo](#); they arrived on European Community Association Agreement visas, but the route ended with Brexit. They can apply for visa extensions, but delays are causing destitution. (Source: Independent)
28. A report concluded that the [new immigration system is unlikely to have a major impact on the economy](#). New analysis found [London is the most attractive UK location for skilled work visa holders](#), with health being the most popular sector in other parts of the country. (Sources: Resolution Foundation, Migration Observatory)
29. Here's a useful [review of immigration policy changes in 2021 and a look ahead to 2022](#). (Source: Free Movement)

The hostile environment

30. [Checking the right to work and rent is changing in April](#): all biometric visa holders will have to evidence their right to work digitally and will no longer be able to use physical cards. A Home Office [review into data sharing between the police and Immigration Enforcement](#) (following a super-complaint about the treatment of crime victims with insecure immigration status) concluded it would be harmful to stop data sharing, and suggested measures such as collaborative partnerships. (Source: Home Office)
31. [Councils had extra funding to support, vaccinate and accommodate rough sleepers over the winter](#) regardless of immigration status. Analysis has been published of the [numbers of people housed through the No Accommodation Network](#) including a case study from South Yorkshire. (Sources: DLUHC, NACCOM)
32. A Citizens Advice report exposes the struggles of people without access to the welfare safety net, finding [81% of people with no recourse to public funds \(NRPF\) visa conditions are behind on at least one essential bill](#). Pending a policy review, [those on the family route applying to remove the NRPF condition from their leave will](#)

[no longer be automatically moved to a 10-year route to settlement](#). (Sources: Citizens Advice, UK Parliament)

33. [The systemic issues related to the arrangements for charging migrants for access to healthcare are outlined in this think tank report](#), which suggests a range of alternatives happening in Europe. (Source: IPPR)
34. It's been reported that [immigration raids on care homes have continued during the pandemic](#). (Source: Care Home)
35. The [Joint Committee on Human Rights has criticised the Judicial Review and Courts Bill](#), which would make it harder for claimants to challenge appeal refusal decisions – the majority of the reviews affected would relate to asylum and immigration cases. (Source: Wired Gov)
36. A range of developments on detention include:
 - Amid apparent [plans to detain all men arriving on small boats](#) there's reportedly been a [significant increase in the number of modern slavery victims identified from within detention](#), and there's continued [critique of the practice of detention](#). (Sources: Daily Mail, Focus on Labour Exploitation, inews)
 - A [public inquiry has begun into mistreatment of detainees at Brook House - whistleblower accounts of abuse](#) have been heard. A Home Office investigation is underway after [reports of racist Whatsapp messages amongst staff of a Home Office sub-contractor](#) Mitie, who escorts migrants to detention centres. (Sources: BBC, the Guardian, Independent)
 - Derwentside, a [new women only detention centre](#), opened in County Durham. [Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre has been criticised for housing women alongside men with a history of sexual violence](#). (Sources: Gov.uk, HM Inspectorate of Prisons, BBC)
 - An [evaluation found that women asylum seekers experienced better health and wellbeing while supported in the community](#) than in detention. (Source: Action Foundation)
37. On enforced removals:
 - Government's [consultation on reforming the Human Rights Act](#) closes on 8 March, and includes [proposals to make deportation easier](#), despite the right to family life. (Sources: Gov.uk, Free Movement)
 - Modern slavery guidance revealed [new decision-making powers for immigration enforcement officers](#) in relation to people facing removal. There are fears of [decisions made with a greater emphasis on immigration status than on protecting victims of crime](#). (Sources: Home Office, the Independent)
 - [A Syrian refugee faced removal from the UK to Denmark](#), making him the first known person to be removed under 'inadmissibility' rules. (Source: Morning Star)
 - A controversial [deportation flight left for Jamaica](#) with reportedly only two or three of the 50 or so originally intended passengers on board, and at an [estimated cost of £50,000 per person](#) removed. [One of the intended passengers was later identified as a potential victim of trafficking](#). (Sources: Guardian, Independent)
 - The Home Office published a [factsheet on returns and charter flights](#). (Source: Home Office)

38. The [government announced a returns agreement with Serbia](#). An interesting [case is presented for the UK re-joining the EU 'Dublin system'](#) despite the UK previously having been a net recipient of refugees under that system in recent years. Some [people hoping to claim asylum here reportedly believe Brexit has improved their chances](#) of success, as individuals can't now be returned to EU countries where they've been fingerprinted. (Sources: Gov.uk, Free Movement, the Guardian)
39. The [government has faced criticism for failing to prevent vulnerable citizens being trafficked to Syria](#) and refusing to repatriate those still detained in North East Syria. This podcast gives [a lawyer's perspective on the Home Secretary's power to remove citizenship](#). (Sources: APPG on Trafficked Britons in Syria - scroll to the end of the page for the report link, Free Movement)

Specific migrant groups

Asylum seekers and refugees

40. [Latest immigration statistics for 2021](#) show the highest number of asylum applications in the UK since 2003, with over 48,500 applications and over 100,000 people awaiting an initial decision at the end of the 2021. When compared with the 27 EU+ countries for the year ending September 2021, the UK was 18th in terms of asylum seekers when measured per head of the population. (Source: Home Office)
41. [The cost of housing asylum seekers and Afghan refugees in hotels was revealed as £1.2m a day](#) when the Home Office appeared in front of the Home Affairs Committee, [but later corrected to £4.7 million a day](#). The error was because the initial figure covers the costs of hotels for Afghans only. These revised costs account for approximately 37,000 asylum seekers and resettled Afghan refugees. (Sources: BBC, Independent)
42. Critique of housing sites includes:
 - The All-Party Parliamentary Group ([APPG](#)) on Immigration Detention published a [report on 'quasi-detention'](#) recommending closure of army barracks and immigration detention contingency sites accommodating asylum seekers. It also opposes plans for reception centres. (Source: APPG on Immigration Detention)
 - A report from the voluntary and community sector highlights harmful [experiences of people seeking asylum housed in hotels, barracks and initial accommodation centres](#) and urges the government to abandon plans to use new large scale accommodation centres. (Source: Asylum Matters)
 - Concerns have been raised about [Home Office plans to re-use a former RAF site](#) in Norfolk as asylum accommodation for 180 people. The site was previously used by the Home Office but received complaints from residents and police and has been described as 'not suitable for anything other than emergency stop-gap'. (Source: Norfolk Live)
 - Two asylum seekers caught up in Glasgow hotel stabbings last year are bringing a [High Court challenge against the Home Office and Mears](#), the housing contractor. (Source: the Guardian)
43. Scrutiny of the Home Office in relation to asylum processes continues:
 - Findings from a [new inspection report on the initial stages of asylum casework](#) include the increasing length of time to provide asylum decisions (an average 449

days for adults in 2020, 550 days for unaccompanied children) and the relatively new declaration of a case as ‘inadmissible’ due to travelling through a safe third country, was applied to over 3,000 cases in 2021 yet none of the claimants has been returned – leading the inspector to conclude that the ‘inadmissibility’ rule only serves to defer the consideration of a claim. The Home Office accepted eight of nine recommendations in full; this includes for example, reintroducing a service standard, prioritising claims from unaccompanied children and tackling the culture of the workplace. There’s [further external analysis available](#). (Sources: ICIBI, Free Movement)

- Oral evidence to the [Joint Committee on Human Rights outlined problems in the Home Office’s asylum decision-making structure](#), claiming poor quality of asylum decisions, successful appeals and delays at the forefront. (Source: Parliament)
- The [Home Office has been criticised for placing too much emphasis on quantitative data](#) when producing country guidance used by asylum decision-makers assessing claims. (Source: Free Movement)
- A report highlights the [failings in the recent transition to new providers](#) for the asylum support payments card system (ASPEN) which has left many asylum seekers facing periods without any financial support. It calls on the Home Office to publish a lessons learned review. (Source: Asylum Matters)

44. Three reports discuss the experiences of service users in the asylum system:

- A research study of forced migrant survivors of sexual and gender-based violence found that the [UK asylum and immigration system exacerbates trauma](#). (Source: University of Birmingham)
- [A report on destitution in the asylum system](#) from a multi-partner destitution project in Glasgow revealed difficulties experienced by asylum seekers such as a challenging initial six months and the need for better early support and advice to avoid destitution later. (Source: British Red Cross)
- [This report shares the perspectives of women with lived experience of the asylum system](#). It found that for many women the asylum system is not gender sensitive, with participants for example recalling having to disclose experiences of sexual violence to male interviewers. It calls for the Home Office to involve women seeking asylum in plans to reform asylum processes. (Source: British Red Cross)

45. [There are reported plans for piloting the electronic tagging of asylum seekers](#). (Source: the Guardian)

46. An amendment to the Asylum Support Regulations means [asylum support rates rose from £39.63 to £40.85 per person per week](#) with effect from 21 February. The payment rate of £8 per week for those living in full board accommodation is increasing to £8.24. [Refugee Council expressed concern that the payments will still be too low](#) to allow people to support themselves. For more detail on how the payment level is broken down, the official annual [review of the 2020 cash allowance for asylum seekers](#) for essential needs includes the expected breakdown of the previous £39.63 allowance for food, travel, toiletries, clothing and communications. (Sources: Legislation.gov.uk, Refugee Council, Home Office)

47. A [bombing incident in Liverpool](#) made headlines when an asylum seeker carried out a suicide attack outside Liverpool Women’s hospital; [Priti Patel described the incident as indicative of a ‘dysfunctional asylum system’](#). [A charity highlighted the potential local impact](#) and the [Church of England was criticised](#) for helping people ‘play’ the

system. (Sources: BBC, Independent, The Guide Liverpool, BBC/Telegraph via Twitter)

48. There were [cross party calls for asylum seekers to be allowed to work](#) but after a review of the evidence submitted by Lift the Ban coalition, government concluded that [no changes will be made to the right to work policy](#). The [government has been criticised for not publishing evidence](#) to support its decision. (Sources: Independent, Free Movement)
49. A Court of Appeal ruling should mean newly-granted [refugees can claim backdated Child Tax Credit](#) from the date of their asylum claim. (Source: Free Movement)
50. On Afghans in the UK:
 - This briefing provides [statistics on Afghan asylum seekers and refugees in the UK](#), where they are dispersed to, and where Afghan communities exist. (Source: Migration Observatory)
 - Many former [Chevening scholars still in Afghanistan face a desperate dilemma](#) of whether to stay or leave the country. (Source: Research Professional News)
 - A [Home Office factsheet on Operation Warm Welcome](#) outlines the support in place for new arrivals from Afghanistan. Subsequently, [the criteria for Afghans to be resettled under the ARAP scheme were narrowed](#). Just before Christmas, [government announced the Afghan Citizen's Resettlement Scheme \(ACRS\) would open in January](#) and has since confirmed [the first resettled family has been granted indefinite leave to remain \(ILR\)](#) and [updated ACRS guidance](#). Those already in the UK as part of the evacuation will be among the first to be resettled under the ACRS, with UNHCR able to make referrals from Spring. (Sources: Home Office, the Guardian)
 - Fears exist that Afghan refugees brought to the UK under the Afghan evacuation programme are at [risk of becoming undocumented and subject to the hostile environment](#) policies with temporary visas due to expire soon. (Source: BBC)
 - [Afghan refugees in hotels will no longer receive additional support for non-essential toiletries](#), prescription costs and transport to appointments, as they should be receiving Universal Credit. (Source: the Guardian)
 - Kirklees features in this article about needing to find [homes for Afghan families](#) while [York City Council confirmed it will resettle 38 people from Afghanistan](#). (Sources: Yorkshire Post, Yorkshire Live)

Children and young people

51. Home Office [data about transfers of unaccompanied asylum seeking children](#) under the National Transfer Scheme showed 119 transfers into Yorkshire and Humber during 2021. (Source: Home Office)
52. In a significant change to national policy, [all councils are now required to care for unaccompanied children](#) who cross the Channel, rather than taking part on a voluntary basis (as has been the case with the National Transfer Scheme so far). [The Home Office wrote to all councils](#) giving them a fortnight to declare reasons for not participating. Subsequently, [a final group of councils was directed to participate in the National Transfer Scheme](#), meaning that now every council in the country is legally required to participate in the scheme. (Sources: BBC, Home Office)

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53. A freedom of information request found in the past year over [600 unaccompanied asylum seeking children have been housed in hotels](#) as temporary accommodation, with Ofsted saying placements posed 'unacceptable safeguarding risks' and could effectively be classed as unregistered children's homes. There are more [reports of children going missing from hotels on the south coast](#) and [in Teesside](#). (Sources: BBC, The Times)
54. The Home Office has proceeded with [plans to introduce 'scientific' methods for age assessments of asylum seekers](#), announcing a Scientific Advisory Committee to advise on what methods should be adopted. The British Association of Social Workers (BASW) and children's charities say [the Nationality and Borders Bill will undermine local social workers'](#) expertise with the introduction of the proposed 'National Age Assessment Board'. (Sources: Home Office, Community Care)
55. [The Home Office also updated its written policy about how they assess the age of a young person upon arrival](#) – bringing in the change where they can assess a person as an adult if they appear significantly over 18 (rather than 25). (Source: Free Movement)
56. [Ministers were questioned about children living in poverty with NRPF conditions](#) particularly during the pandemic; here's recent written [information on the Work and Pensions Committee inquiry](#) on this topic. This blog post explores [how the Nationality and Borders Bill could affect children](#), given that the No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) clause could be applied at some point to families with the new 'temporary protection' status. The author points to research about the impacts of low incomes and the NRPF clause upon children. (Sources: Parliament TV/Parliament, London School of Economics)
57. [The Supreme Court ruled that the Home Office can continue to charge whatever it likes for children to register as British citizens](#). At over £1,000 the current fee is unaffordable for many. The law says the fee can reflect the likely benefits of becoming a citizen and subsidise other parts of the immigration system. (Source: Free Movement)
58. At least [18,000 children and young people in care face unresolved immigration issues](#), according to a report by Coram Children's Legal Centre and South London Refugee Association who call on councils to sign an immigration support pledge. (Source: Electronic Immigration Network)
59. New research calculates the difference in educational markers for children who have fled to the UK. Worryingly, [unaccompanied children are over three years behind their peers](#) by the time they take their GCSEs, and they are more likely to be excluded or absent from school. (Source: EPI)
60. The University of Glasgow has produced a [resource on picture books](#) for anyone working with displaced children and a toolkit for those working with children in education or health settings. [Here's a short article describing the project](#) (click the 7th item on the list) or [watch this two minute Youtube video](#). (Sources: Children's Literature in Critical Contexts of Displacement, Universities UK International)
61. This recording of a recent [webinar concerns how schools can welcome children who are refugees](#). (Source: The Bell Foundation)

International students

62. Universities UK revealed [that 28% of the student population and 21% of university staff are international](#). According to an international student recruitment marketplace, [the UK remains a top destination for international students](#), with healthcare courses such as nursing attracting a significant increase in applications in the past year. [A briefing on international students' graduate visa rules](#) provides guidance on requirements and clarifies that this visa can't lead to settlement. (Sources: Universities UK, FE news, Free Movement)
63. [Universities UK wants government to amend the Visitor immigration route](#) so that exchange students can stay in the UK for a year on a visitor visa rather than a student visa. Around 38,000 exchange students come to the UK each year (who are registered at a university overseas and come to study here for a short time). Fewer immigration controls mean students stay longer – this happened in the past with EU students. (Source: Wonkhe)
64. Various universities are offering scholarships for people with forced migration backgrounds, including [University College London](#) (UCL) and [St Andrews](#). Another list of [university scholarships for people with limited leave to remain](#) includes Leeds University and York St John. [York University is offering summer school scholarships for young people](#), including a specific one for refugees and asylum seekers. (Sources: UCL, University of St Andrews, We Belong, University of York)
65. A study on [the impact of having 'limited leave to remain' on young students](#) claims that this status *reverses* their integration progress. (Source: We Belong)
66. A recent update from the High Court suggests that [access to finance should not be denied to students affected by suspension of services due to the pandemic](#). (Source: Free Movement)

EU nationals

67. [A new briefing on migrants in the UK labour market](#) suggests workers born in EU14 countries are more likely to be in high skilled occupations than the UK born, while those from newer EU member states (EU8 and EU2) dominate occupations classified as low-skilled. In 2020 around half of highly educated workers born in EU8 and EU2 states were in low and medium-low skilled jobs. (Source: Migration Observatory)
68. There are some [new video resources for seasonal workers](#) who are speakers of Romanian, Russian, Ukrainian and English produced by Leeds University as part of their '[Feeding the nation](#)' project. (Source: New Europeans, University of Leeds)
69. [EU nationals are three times more likely to experience homelessness](#) than the general population, with job loss the main underlying reason. (Source: the Guardian)
70. Back in December [Bradford launched their Roma strategy](#), while a new report covers [lessons learned from supporting the Roma community during the pandemic](#). (Sources: CNET, Roma Support Group)
71. The [guidance for border staff on treatment of EU nationals post-grace period](#) was updated clarifying those waiting for status are allowed into the UK. Meanwhile, [there was an increase in the number of EU nationals refused entry to the UK](#), with the majority of those stopped being from Romania. (Sources: Home Office, City AM)

72. EU settlement scheme (EUSS) statistics nationally show:
- Over [6 million EUSS applications were made up to the end of January 2022](#) with almost 400,000 made after the 30 June 2021 deadline. (Source: Home Office)
 - [Romania continues to be a top nationality of EUSS applicants](#) followed closely by Poland; each nationality has exceeded 1 million applications. (Source: Home Office)
 - Over 300,000 applicants are still waiting for a decision of which [more than 25,000 claims were paused due to pending prosecution](#); some of these were caused by outdated Police National Computer records. (Source: Independent)
73. In Yorkshire and Humber,
- Close to [350,000 EUSS applications have been made in Yorkshire and the Humber](#) up to the end of December 2021; this is now [available in an interactive data dashboard format](#). (Sources: Home Office, Migration Yorkshire)
 - Top nationalities of applicants in our region remain broadly the same – Poland (26%), Romania (20%), Slovakia (9%), Italy (5%) and Lithuania (5%), with non-EU applicants continue to account for 5% of applications.
 - The rate of applications from children in the region continues to be higher than nationally, with under 18s accounting for 21% of applications, compared to 17% nationally, while older applicants (over 65) account for 2% of applications in Yorkshire and Humber, slightly lower than 3% nationally.
 - 52% have been granted settled status and 39% pre-settled, while other outcomes account for 9% (compared to 52%, 41% and 7% nationally). Over 20,000 are still awaiting a decision.
74. Updated [data on applications under the EUSS from looked after children](#) published in December indicates 95% of eligible children have applied to the scheme. In Yorkshire and Humber, 534 children were identified as potentially eligible to apply for status, with 503 making applications (94% of eligible children). The highest number of eligible children were in Bradford (147), Rotherham (118) and Leeds (86), with no children in East Riding and York. (Source: Home Office)
75. A Supreme Court judgement on [access to benefits for EU nationals with pre-settled status](#) overturns last year's ruling, confirming that pre-settled status is not sufficient to meet the 'right to reside' test for the purpose of claiming benefits. The [implications of the judgement](#) are discussed in the recent Housing Rights newsletter. (Sources: Free Movement, Chartered Institute of Housing)
76. More from the courts - [EU nationals appealing deportation orders have their rights protected](#) by the Withdrawal Agreement, while [non-married EU partners lose their residence rights, even in cases of domestic violence](#). (Source: Free Movement)
77. In the [response to a Select Committee report on citizens' rights](#) the Home Office confirmed they will be reminding holders of pre-settled status holders to upgrade their status before it expires. Meanwhile, the Independent Monitoring Authority (IMA) [issued judicial review proceedings](#) against the Home Office in relation to conversion of pre-settled to settled status. (Sources: Parliament, IMA)
78. Landlords' [right to rent guidance now includes information on late EUSS applicants](#), while a memo from the Department for Work and Pensions ([DWP clarifies rights to benefits for applicants who are still waiting for a decision](#)) on their status. The NRPF

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Network's [guidance for local authorities on supporting EU nationals](#) is updated. (Sources: UKVI, DWP, NRPF Network)

79. The Home Office accepted most of the recommendations from the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration ([ICIBI's report inspecting the EUSS](#)) between July 2020 and March 2021, except for the collection of data on vulnerability and protected characteristics. (Source: ICIBI)
80. The [Home Office is currently overlooking the lack of comprehensive sickness insurance in applications for citizenship](#) and this approach is expected to continue. (Source: Free Movement)
81. Generated by EU nationals to show their immigration status for the purpose of proving their right to work, rent and access services, [a share code is now valid for 90 days](#) instead of 30 days. (Source: Home Office)
82. Recent issues reported in relation to the progress of the EUSS include:
 - A [change of approach to late applications which follow a refused application made by the deadline](#) has been signalled in updated EUSS caseworker guidance. Such repeat applications are now to be mandatorily refused. [Further explanation of these changes](#) is provided on a legal blog. (Sources: Home Office, Free Movement)
 - A freedom of information request revealed that [over a half of calls to EU Settlement Resolution Centre between November 2020/21 went unanswered. Delays in decision-making continue to cause distress](#) to EU nationals and their family members. Many of those who applied using paper applications are still [waiting for the return of their documents](#). (Sources: Free Movement, Ferret, Politico)
 - There is a continuing issue of [non-EU family members holding settled status who are unable to return to the UK](#) due to their biometric documents expiring. (Source: Independent)

Hong Kong

83. [103,900 applications for the British National \(Overseas\) \(BN\(O\)\) visa were made by the end of 2021](#). Over 90,000 visas have been granted. There were 80 visa refusals last quarter, the first recorded refusals on the BN(O) route. (Source: Home Office)
84. [The BN\(O\) visa scheme is being extended to more young Hongkongers](#), enabling individuals aged 18 or over who were born on or after 1 July 1997 and who have at least one BN(O) parent to apply to the route independently. The changes are expected to go live in October. (Source: Parliament)
85. Findings from [a survey on the migration intentions of BNO status holders](#) shows 6% of the eligible Hong Kong population were planning to come to the UK, with a further 32% considering the move. Those planning to relocate were younger and more educated, and London is the most popular destination. Meanwhile a [Home Office survey of BNO visa holders](#) from January 2022 provides more details on characteristics of this group, including family composition. The survey indicates that that most visa holders intend to stay in the UK long term. (Sources: Migration Observatory, Home Office)
86. [A survey of medical professionals](#) was carried out to support NHS recruitment plans. Relatedly, the NHS is working on [a toolkit aimed at Hong Kong nurses](#) to share good

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practice and support this cohort in applying for NHS vacancies. (Sources: Hongkongers in Britain, NHS)

87. In February the [results of a grant scheme were announced](#) with [47 national and regional projects allocated funding](#) to offer a range of support to new arrivals from Hong Kong between now and end of June. Seven organisations are delivering national projects covering employment, mental health support and hate crime reporting, while three organisations – Sheffield Chinese Christian Church, Health for All and Faith Action – are providing more localised support in our region. (Source: Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities)

Modern slavery

88. The latest [modern slavery statistics show a 33% increase in referrals](#) in quarter 3 2021 compared to the same period last year (although last year's figure was likely lower due to lockdowns). Only [7% of trafficking victims were granted leave to remain in the UK](#) between 2016-2021. (Sources: Home Office, the Guardian)
89. This report provides [an overview of child trafficking in the UK](#) over the past year. (Source: Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner)
90. [Government departments published modern slavery statements](#) for the first time. The [government's modern slavery annual report](#) highlights achievements such as further investment in the police response, and the roll out of the Independent Child Trafficking Service to two-thirds of councils. (Source: Home Office)
91. Annual reports are available for the [Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority](#), the [Salvation Army](#), responsible for delivering support to survivors, and the [West Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority Policing and Crime Annual Report 20/21](#) which highlights work to tackle modern slavery, including efforts to raise awareness of domestic servitude. (Sources: Home Office, Salvation Army, West Yorkshire Combined Authority)
92. The Modern Slavery and Human Rights Policy and Evidence Centre published a [briefing to inform the government's review of its 2014 Modern Slavery Strategy](#). Recommendations include partnership and prevention work, and inclusion of people with lived experience in policy and research. In a separate briefing, the Centre also described how [Covid-19 increased vulnerability to modern slavery](#). (Source: MSPEC)
93. A report to help set up or improve [Local Modern Slavery Partnerships](#) includes recommendations to government including: sustainable funding, a national framework, and local coordinators. (Source: Shiva Foundation)
94. This [guide for police officers and labour inspectors](#) highlights that fear of deportation can prevent victims of exploitation from coming forward, and recommends developing secure reporting mechanisms. (Source: Focus on Labour Exploitation)
95. Reports giving new insights on this topic include:
 - A report from the Chief Inspector for Borders raises concerns that [new ePassport gates may make it more difficult to identify vulnerable passengers](#) such as victims of modern slavery. (Source: ICIBI)

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- The Anti-Slavery Commissioner concludes greater preventative efforts are needed in this [new report examining the issue of re-trafficking](#). (Source: Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner)
 - Research on [labour abuse in the app-based delivery sector](#) found that restrictive immigration policies encourage undocumented migrants to enter the sector, putting them at risk of exploitation. (Source: FLEX)
 - This report explores [migrant workers' vulnerability to labour abuse and exploitation](#) during the pandemic. (Source: FLEX)
 - A [new report calls for needs-based support for modern slavery victims](#), highlights delays in decision-making, and argues that survivors should be seen above all as crime victims. It recommends an additional 12 months of support on leaving the National Referral Mechanism, leave to remain and access to public funds. Commenting on the findings, [the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner argues that victims should not be seen as part of an 'immigration problem'](#). (Sources: Centre for Social Justice, Express)
96. Government recently consulted on [plans to improve victims' experience of the justice system](#); proposals include pre-recorded evidence for modern slavery offence complainants and a new modern slavery strategy. (Source: Ministry of Justice)
97. Some [modern slavery survivors can now claim backdated support](#) after having had their support rate incorrectly reduced where they had access to alternative support such as asylum support. (Source: Gov.uk)

Windrush

98. A [law reform group analysed how the Windrush compensation scheme is operating](#). Of the 15,000 individuals estimated to be eligible for compensation, at the end of August 2021 2,761 had applied, of whom 837 had received payments. There have been [calls from a parliamentary committee](#) as well as [calls from lawyers and campaigners for the scheme to be independent](#). (Sources: JUSTICE, the Guardian, The Justicegap)
99. Local authorities, charities and community [organisations can apply for a Windrush day grant](#) for education on, commemoration and celebration of the Windrush Generation. Applications close 18 March. (Source: DLUHC)

Cohesion and integration

100. The government's White Paper '[Levelling Up the United Kingdom](#)' was published, proposing ways to 'spread opportunity more equally' across the country. There is a lot in the paper, but [one commentary draws attention to a proposal for a 'Strategy for Community Spaces and Relationships'](#) (p.214) of particular relevance to community cohesion and integration. Relatedly, [Hope Not Hate launched a 'bid builder tool'](#) to support local authorities access existing funding to help develop community resilience. (Sources: Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, British Future, Hope Not Hate)
101. [Government needs to 'jump-start' efforts to promote integration](#) according to a think tank, through investment in communities through social infrastructure, reform in the immigration system, and adopting the principles of sanctuary and co-production and ensuring they run through integration strategies. (Source: IPPR)

102. New insights into the impacts of the pandemic include:

- [A research report on how coronavirus has impacted on social cohesion and integration](#) identified Bradford, Hull, Scarborough and Selby within a group of [52 council areas where one consequence of the pandemic could be far right extremism](#) as they have a combination of high covid impact, low economic resilience and less liberal attitudes to migration and multiculturalism. (Sources: Hope not Hate, the Observer)
- [Lockdown led to greater isolation for refugees and asylum seekers](#), particularly single mothers and single men, according to this research study. (Source: University of Newcastle)
- A report on [the experiences of undocumented migrants during the pandemic](#) shows how the lives of undocumented migrants have become even more precarious especially in the fields of housing, work and healthcare, and how issues arising from the pandemic have been further exacerbated as a result of the 'hostile environment' policy. (Source: Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants)

103. Campaign groups have called for [all migrants to come within the scope of the public inquiry](#) into the government's handling of the pandemic, including those who are undocumented or have no legal status. (Source: The National)

104. Recent items on homelessness cover:

- A National Audit Office (NAO) report on private renting notes that migrants are three times more likely to live in private-rented accommodation and that privately rented homes are more likely to be unsafe or lower in standard than privately-owned homes or social housing. Disparities are most pronounced in Yorkshire and Humber compared to the rest of England. Alarmingly, it also found that [a quarter of landlords are unwilling to rent homes to non-UK passport holders](#). (Source: NAO)
- Bradford is a case study in this [briefing on a universal homelessness response for non-UK nationals](#) - which reflects on the government's 'Everyone In' policy and analyses local authority approaches to ending homelessness and how these can include those facing immigration-based restrictions. (Source: Homeless Link)
- [An article 'How racism impacts homeless people'](#) reveals how structural racism impacts access to homelessness services for people identifying as Black or belonging to minority ethnic groups. 'Black households' are more than three times more likely to experience homelessness than all other ethnicities. Partially this is the result of disparities driven by labour market inequalities, immigration policy and the design of the social security system. (Source: Inside Housing – subscription only)

105. [Azeem Rafiq gave evidence to the parliamentary inquiry on racism in cricket](#), including his experiences at Yorkshire County Cricket Club. Some suggest his testimony is not a surprise; stories from other people in cricket identifying as British Asians indicate they were encouraged to see racist abuse as 'banter'. What seems different this time - according to some - is that [Azeem Rafiq is being listened to](#). In response to Azeem Rafiq's testimony, many [stories have been shared by Yorkshire residents who identify as part of the 'British Asian community'](#) about how racism plays a big part in their day-to-day life. (Sources: BBC, the Guardian)

106. [A recent article argues depictions of black people in documentaries are still largely based on stereotypes](#), mainly covering topics such as racism, crime and music. Better representation of black people in more powerful roles, such as editing and commissioning, is needed. (Source: the Guardian)

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107. A two-part [documentary features people discussing what it means to be black and British](#). (Source: BBC)
108. [Psychiatrist Holan Liang explores the human need to belong and reflects on her personal experiences of racism](#), growing up in the UK as the daughter of Chinese migrants. (Source: the Guardian)
109. [Broadcasters have agreed to stop using the term BAME](#) where possible, following a BBC-commissioned [report by Birmingham City University](#) that recommends the acronym stops being used as it groups people from very diverse backgrounds, different practices, traditions and values under one umbrella, and may hide discrimination. Instead, more specific terms should be used to describe ethnicity. (Sources: BBC, Birmingham City University)
110. [10 things we learned about public attitudes in 2021](#) includes issues relating to migration. Most people (70%) agree government is handling migration badly, but for different reasons. 'Taking the knee' has become the focal point of talk about race and racism, and now six out of ten football fans back players when taking the knee. Many still do not know much about terminologies around 'Culture Wars', with the exception of the term 'white privilege'. (Source: British Future)
111. Following Little Amal's arrival in our region, here's an [opinion piece reflecting on the giant puppet](#) in context of UK hostility towards sanctuary seekers. (Source: inews)
112. New research suggests that [people are more willing to help if an image of suffering exposes an identifiable individual](#) rather than a group of anonymous, 'faceless masses'. They found that viewers dehumanised people fleeing persecution if the images of them were in big rather than small groups. Furthermore, dehumanisation seems to increase in cases when images show faceless individuals in the sea (as opposed to the land). The researchers suggest it is very easy to depict people instead of being *in crisis* as *being a crisis*. (Source: The Conversation)
113. [Unpacking the myth of the 'good refugee' podcast](#) is a conversation about the impact of the tendency to classify refugees as 'good' or 'bad' – and how the 'good refugee' label can also be problematic. (Source: Philanthropy Age, 49 minutes)
114. A research publication found that [exposure to celebrities, such as Liverpool Football Club's Mohamed Salah, can reduce prejudice](#) by supporters and the wider community. (Source: Migration Observatory)
115. The International Federation of [Red Cross and Red Crescent launched the #PowerToBe campaign](#) to change negative perceptions of refugees. (Source: IFRC)
116. New [research explores how Scotland's image of being welcoming to migrants fits the experiences of migrants](#) living there. While young adult migrants felt Scotland was welcoming overall, the findings suggest it is less tolerant than how it is presented. Many felt that their 'look' and their accents do not fit the image of what they see as Scottish identity. (Source: The Conversation)
117. Some encouraging stories on the topic of integration and cohesion include:
 - [Chef Yotam Ottolenghi shares his story of migration to the UK](#) and speaks up for the importance of diversity, telling us how multiculturalism has made food in the UK better. (Source: the Guardian)

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- [In the past year many more UK employers have employed refugees](#). There's a call for firms to be supported to address barriers. (Source: Consultancy UK)
- [Micro Rainbow reflects on their work](#) supporting the integration of LGBTQI+ asylum seekers and non-UK nationals, to mark LGBTQI+ history month. [An asylum seeker and LGBT activist based in Doncaster has shared his story](#) of arriving in the UK and adapting to life here. (Sources: Homeless Link, IMIX)
- To address asylum seekers' travel needs, [Wales is trialling a new program to offer free public transportation to asylum seekers](#). (Source: Forbes)
- Leeds GATE project is highlighted as an example of 'a better approach' at a time when [the Policing Bill threatens to criminalise the Gypsy and Traveller way of life](#). (Source: The Conversation)
- *'That man to man, the world, o'er, Shall brithers be for a' that'*- [can poetry connect communities?](#) Read about a Burns Supper with the Yemeni community where people were brought together through poetry and food. (Source: Glasgow Times)

International news

EU

118. During a visit to Lesbos, [Pope Francis criticised European countries for their treatment of migrants](#), while an NGO report states that [LGBT+ asylum seekers are facing 'double discrimination' across Europe](#), including in countries with good records on LGBT+ matters. (Sources: BBC, Euronews)
119. In **France**, [frontline services at Calais were at risk](#) with funding ending and as winter approached. (Source: the Guardian)
120. **Cyprus** [wants to temporarily stop accepting new asylum applications](#), asking the European Commission to approve such a move. (Source: InfoMigrants)
121. [The former Danish immigration minister was sentenced to two months in prison](#) after ordering several couples who were asylum seekers to be separated. (Source: the Guardian)
122. A [Vietnamese man was sentenced to 15 years in prison](#) in **Belgium** for being the leader of a gang that trafficked migrants found dead in a lorry in the UK in 2019. (Source: BBC)
123. The [new German coalition government announced changes to migration policy](#) and later [followed with a proposal to allow dual citizenship](#) for non-EU migrants as a way to integrate people from Syria, but with huge implications for their large Turkish population. As outgoing Chancellor, Angela [Merkel reflected on her decision to open the country to refugees back in 2015](#) and claims it to have been a success. Indeed, it was reported that [over half of the refugees who arrived in Germany in 2015 are now employed](#) and 44% speak excellent German, concluding 'Merkel's decision to admit one million refugees in 2015 has had immense economic and social benefits for Germany'. (Sources: Info Migrants, Times Now News, the London Economic)
124. [Over 12,000 Venezuelans have been granted humanitarian protection in Spain](#) fleeing the political situation in 2021, and thousands of [undocumented migrants will have a pathway to Irish citizenship](#) under a one-off government scheme. (Sources: UNHCR/CE Noticias Financias, BBC)

125. [Refugees in Italy have found hope and business success in the design and music worlds](#), despite the challenges posed by the EU's asylum system and restrictions. (Source: the Guardian)

The EU border region

126. Across the EU the topics of pushbacks and walls have dominated.

- Over [11,900 asylum seekers were pushed back at EU borders](#) during 2021. This article considers [what's happened to the 7,000 migrants 'pushed back'](#) from countries like Poland and Lithuania? (Sources: Info Migrants, BBC)
- Here is a [summary of the border walls built across Europe](#) over the past ten years, while this [interactive investigation tracks 1,800km of walls and fences](#) at European borders. (Sources: Agence France Presse, the Telegraph)
- [EU ministers met to discuss border protection](#) as well as rules for repatriating migrants. Some eastern EU countries asked for EU funds for the construction of border walls, but EU Home Affairs Commissioner Johansson stated that 'Pushbacks are clearly illegal. People have the right to apply for asylum'. However, [border checks in the 26-country Schengen area may be tightened](#) due to coronavirus restrictions and the possibility of migrants crossing from Belarus. (Sources: Infomigrants, AP News)
- In a fast-moving situation, many of [Ukraine's neighbouring countries have made plans to receive refugees](#) following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, whilst [the three-kilometre-wide zone between the Poland and Belarus border will remain restricted](#) until the end of June. (Source: Infomigrants)

Belarus

127. A parliamentary [briefing summarises the current Belarus-EU migrant crisis](#) by November. The situation escalated after [a tenth person was found dead on the Belarus-Poland border](#). [Migrants denied entry to the EU have had to deal with dropping temperatures](#) and little support. [The UN condemned Belarus](#) for its handling of the crisis. Read about [an underground network sheltering displaced people](#) on the Poland-Belarus border. (Sources: House of Commons Library, Info Migrants, The Observer, BBC, the Guardian)

128. New measures were introduced by different parties:

- [The EU introduced sanctions](#) against anyone facilitating migrant travel through Belarus to the Polish border, and [the number of countries and airlines preventing certain nationalities from flying to Belarus is growing](#). Indeed, Iraq will repatriate its citizens *from* this area. (Sources: the Guardian, Al Jazeera)
- [The EU Commission was criticised for restricting the rights of asylum seekers](#) and suspending EU law at the Belarus border, at the same time as a controversial border protection law came into force in Poland. (Source: DW)
- [Polish troops used water cannon and tear gas against migrants](#) trying to cross the border from Belarus and [Poland began a \\$400 million border wall](#) leading to outcry from [scientists who warned it could lead to an environmental disaster](#). (Sources: the Guardian, UNHCR covering Al Jazeera)
- [Lithuania plans camera surveillance along its eastern border](#) costing €40 million. (Source: UNHCR covering Deutsche Presse-Agentur)

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129. There were [warnings of further deaths](#) happening as the number of migrants grows, the area becomes more militarised, and claims for international protection are denied. This led to [Germany expecting thousands of irregular migrants to cross the border](#) from Poland and Belarus. (Sources: the Guardian, InfoMigrants)
130. [Belarus cleared a migrant camp at the border with Poland](#) and claimed [it will facilitate the return of 5,000 people if the EU allows 2,000 people to enter](#). Indeed, a return flight to Iraq already took almost 400 people. [In a giant, freezing warehouse 1,000 asylum seekers were being held](#) at the end of 2021 just inside the Belarus border. Poland's deputy commissioner for human rights more recently said [at least 1,500 people are still stranded in detention centres](#) with poor conditions. (Sources: UNHCR, Reuters, the Guardian, EUobserver)

The Mediterranean Sea

131. [Sea crossings have increased in the Mediterranean](#) with hundreds of migrants needing rescue. [Deaths of people crossing from Africa to Spain passed 4,400](#) in 2021, more than double the 2020 figure. (Sources: Infomigrants, UNHCR/The Times)
132. Gianni Infantino [the FIFA president sparked outrage in his campaign to introduce a biennial World Cup](#) when he implied it would be a solution to migrant crossings of the Mediterranean. He said to the Council of Europe it would create opportunities for Africans who might otherwise make fatal crossings. (Source: the Guardian)
133. Two Tunisian social influencers drew criticism [by crossing the Mediterranean in a small boat](#). Oxfam raised concern about the [disappearance of over 20,000 migrants who've been taken back to Libya](#) by coastguards. This interactive article allows you to [explore what happens in the central Mediterranean](#) as countries try to prevent people from crossing from Libya to Italy. (Sources: Independent, Info Migrants, The New Humanitarian)
134. In 'an unusual and special case' [Greece allowed a cargo ship in distress travelling from Turkey to dock in Kos](#), with nearly 400 refugees disembarking to claim asylum. It has been reported that [Greece is seeking to return passengers from Pakistan and Bangladesh](#). (Sources: the Guardian, InfoMigrants)
135. On the Canary Islands, [centres for unaccompanied children have reached saturation point](#), with nearly 2,800 young people arriving in recent years. (Source: Info Migrants)

Beyond the EU

136. **Australia's** detention policy became a global talking point. Denied entry to play in the Australian Open, [Novak Djokovic was held in a hotel used to detain asylum seekers](#) known for having poor conditions and food, and later deported. [The situation gave renewed attention to treatment of asylum seekers](#) in Australia. [PM Scott Morrison was accused of lying](#) for saying those detained in the same hotel as Djokovic weren't refugees. [A journalist and former detainee offshored by Australia to Manus Island reflected on the story](#), while [another former detainee, now a writer and translator, called for attitudes to change](#). (Sources: the Guardian, the Telegraph, UNHCR/The Washington Post, Open Democracy)
137. In the **US**, numerous [rallies marked the national 'Day Without Immigrants'](#) calling for President Biden to keep his promise to create a pathway to citizenship for undocumented people. The Biden administration plans to place [hundreds of](#)

[immigrants on house arrest as an alternative to detention](#) as a part of his campaign for a more humane approach to immigration policy than the previous administration. (Sources: The Philadelphia Inquirer, New York Post)

138. [Low income countries still bear the greatest responsibility in hosting refugees](#), according to a progress report on the Global Compact on Refugees (and bearing this out, [UNHCR and the Ethiopian government called for more international support](#) for almost a million refugees from 29 countries hosted in Ethiopia) yet, an IOM report notes, [refugees have been increasingly displaced within their countries](#) as a consequence of the pandemic. [UNHCR called on governments to do more to protect refugee women and girls](#) following a surge in violence, exploitation and abuse linked to the pandemic. (Sources: UNHCR, the Guardian, Info Migrants)

139. Relating to **Afghanistan**:

- [Central Asian countries remain closed to Afghan refugees](#). NATO's offer of funding to these countries to look after more people has been rebuffed as an attempt to deflect responsibility for the situation. (Source: The Diplomat)
- It's been reported that [Iran has been regularly deporting tens of thousands of Afghans](#), but recently [500,000 Afghans have fled to Iran](#) as the economy collapses. (Sources: Al Jazeera, UNHCR)
- ['The Left Behind' series captures stories of those trapped in Afghanistan](#), such as a former senior policewoman, a British taxi driver and his family, and officials from the former Women's Affairs Ministry. (Source: the Guardian)
- [Sharbat Gula has recently been evacuated to Italy](#) – she was the Afghan girl with striking green eyes whose image became familiar across the world in 1985. (Source: NBC News)

140. There was increasing concern about refugees fleeing **Myanmar**, [with 20,000 people on the Indian border](#) and a further [13,000 on the border with Thailand](#). (Sources: Outlook India, RFA)

141. [Palestinian refugees in Lebanon went on strike](#) to protest alleged inaction to combat the spread of Omicron in refugee camps. (Source: Middle East Monitor)

142. The arrival of migrants is a sensitive subject in many South and Central American countries because of deep economic woes in Venezuela, Haiti, and Guatemala. Governments are proposing controversial solutions to stop migrants crossing into their countries; for example, [in Chile a ditch is being dug along the border with Bolivia](#) and [in Dominican Republic a wall is being built along the border with Haiti](#). (Sources: The Rio Times – subscription needed, Aljazeera)

Local stories

143. Stories about migrant communities in Yorkshire and Humber include:

- Thanks to an NHS pilot scheme, [Yorkshire is benefiting from a new group of nurses who are Palestinian refugees from Lebanon](#). They'll be working in hospitals in Dewsbury, Pontefract and Wakefield. (Source: Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust)
- In Bradford, [ESOL students](#) were invited to the Royal Shakespeare Company Showcase and a VIP trip to Downing Street. [Refugee entrepreneurs in Bradford will benefit from the recently launched 'New Dawn' initiative](#). Through virtual reality the

- [BReaTHe project enables displaced people to visit digitally recreated historical sites](#). (Sources: Bradford College, The Telegraph and Argus, Bradford University)
- In this video, [a Calderdale primary school share what they've been doing to learn about and support refugees](#). (Source: Calderdale Valley of Sanctuary)
 - Local media highlighted Welcome House, a project delivering [a face to face multi-agency service for people seeking asylum in Hull](#). (Source: Hull Daily Mail)
 - ['More than a migrant' features three people from different walks of life who have made Kirklees their home](#). Kirklees Council put together this video for International Migrants Day. (Source: Kirklees Together)
 - In Leeds, there was a [visit by the Duke of Cambridge to a hotel housing Afghan families](#) in Leeds. 'A modern-day Schindler's List' – the [Afghan junior women's football team arrived safely](#) with the support of [Kim Kardashian and Leeds United](#). On Holocaust Memorial Day, [Ilkley Civic Society unveiled a blue plaque](#) and planted an oak tree to commemorate a hostel for Jewish refugee children in World War II. (Sources: Yorkshire Post, the Guardian, Sky News, Ilkley Gazette)
 - [A North Yorkshire veteran created the 'Buddy Box' to support Afghan children learning English](#) – it's already been used in places like Selby. (Source: BBC)
 - [A new play opened in York telling the story of a Rohingya boy](#) who spent his life in a detention centre in Australia, a timely production as the Home Secretary explores using similar models here in the UK. (Source: York Press)
 - In Sheffield, [a Sheffield Hallam student represented Jamaica's bobsleigh team](#) in the Winter Olympics in Beijing. [Submissions were invited for the Migration Matters Festival](#) in Sheffield to celebrate the positive impact of migration. Take a moment to enjoy this poem ['A Sonnet for Sheffield'](#), by award-winning British-born Somali poet and Sheffield-based teacher, Warda Yassin. (Sources: Yorkshire Post, Migration Matters Festival, Good Neighbours Project)

This update was prepared in February 2022 by a team at Migration Yorkshire: Pip Tyler, Kate James, Vanja Čelebičić, Ewa Jamróz, Rosie Cooke, Stefan Robert, Vicky Ledwidge, Alex Fox, Laura-Maria Ruiz Duarte, Sarah Botterill, Caris Etherington, Sophie Tong, Qamran Hussain, Liz Maddocks, Akosiwa Agbokou and Michael Crowe.

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For an explanation of terms used in this report, see our 'Who are migrants?' document on our website at: www.migrationyorkshire.org.uk/whoaremigrants