



Hampshire
County Council

Children Seeking Asylum

Presentation for Children & Families Advisory Panel
September 2023

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National Transfer Scheme (NTS)

- Home Office confirm 45,000 people illegally entering UK in 2022. Number predicted to rise to 80,000 in coming year.
- Most arrivals are via small boats.
- Top 5 Countries include, Afghanistan, Sudan, Albania, Iraq, and Vietnam.
- Approximately 5,500 children - 94% males aged 16/17yrs old.

- Local Authority to take 0.1% - Hampshire's mandated number 281. Currently 274 children seeking asylum, with an additional 402 care leavers.
- HCC notified of small boat arrivals and given 5 days to place. Once placed children become 'Looked After' under Section 20 Children Act 1989.
- HCC receives £143 per child per night by way of contribution for costs of placements. Current placements costs between £30-62k pa.
- Children also arriving spontaneously – local response taken and children are age assessed and made 'Looked After' – HCC receives £114 per night.

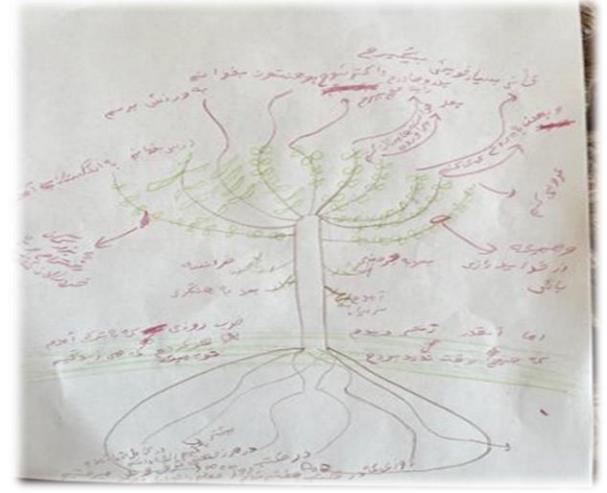
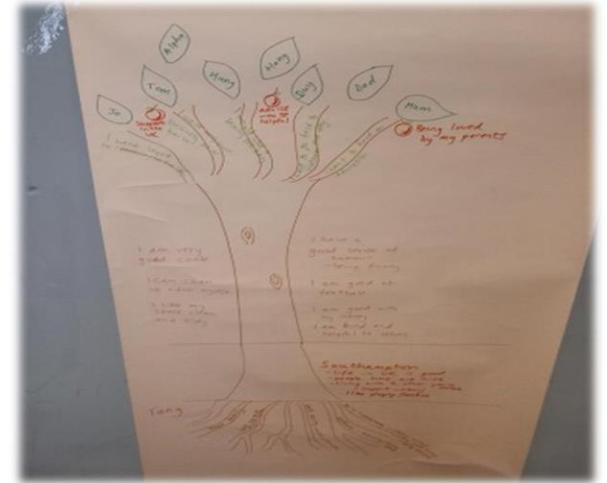
Specialist Refugee Teams

- Teams will include 7 social workers, 2 family practitioners, 6 care leaving personal assistants, and admin staff.
- Hampshire currently cares for 274 children, 252 of these are in Refugee Teams – once fully staffed the remainder will transfer in, taking pressure off the CIC teams.
- Experienced workers with knowledge of the legislative immigration framework.
- Work closely with Willow Team to complete trafficking and age assessments and explore risks in respect of exploitation.
- Work closely with Red Cross to locate and make contact with birth families.
- Therapeutic approach used in recognition of the trauma children have gone through.



Participation

- Vietnamese Children enjoying a recent participation event at Eastleigh Football club.
- Lunch followed providing opportunity to discuss their collective journey to the UK and gain a greater understanding of the specific needs of this cohort of children.
- Children encouraged to be part of the care council.



Challenges

- Shortage of foster placements – negative media can cause potential carers to forget that they are just children.
- Approximately 60% of placements out of county – increased risk of exploitation.
- Currently a gap in formal educational provisions for children aged 17 and who are between school and college.
- Supporting children seeking asylum to integrate into the community.
- Increased risk of exploitation.

HCC Response

- Dedicated team working with foster carers to dispel myths around caring for children seeking asylum. Drive to bring placements back to Hampshire and out of London.
[Unaccompanied Asylum-seeking Child | Health and social care | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://www.hants.gov.uk/health-social-care/unaccompanied-asylum-seeking-child)
- Holding regular participation events so that the children can meet one another.
- Working with virtual school to look at bespoke alternative learning programmes, and connecting with partner agencies to provide ESL courses.
- Independent Reviewing Officers with specialist knowledge of working with unaccompanied children.

Questions