

Appendix A

Update on the dispersal of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

1. Cllr David Simmonds, Chairman of the LGA's Asylum and Migration Taskforce, wrote recently to all Lead Members for Children's Services with an update on unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC). With the number of UASC in the UK having more than doubled since 2014, the vast majority of councils are now involved in providing care and support for these vulnerable children and young people. Over 80 cases have now been successfully transferred through the new National Transfer Scheme since its inception on 1 July, and indications are that numbers are and will remain low for individual authorities as the scheme continues to develop.
2. The Immigration Minister wrote earlier in the month to all Council Leaders, asking that they contact their Strategic Migration Partnership by 21 September to confirm how many unaccompanied children they will be able to accommodate this financial year. This mechanism will also be used to coordinate any offers in 2-tier areas, with LGA and ADCS members closely involved in these discussions.
3. The Minister has confirmed that all unaccompanied refugee children who are brought to the UK under a formal resettlement scheme, but are not reuniting with family members, will be placed into local authority care through the National Transfer Scheme. The Minister has also confirmed a small amount of funding to each regional Strategic Migration Partnership for the development of the regional infrastructure required to support the scheme, with the first grants expected to be paid in October 2016.
4. Enhanced funding rates are now available for local authorities accepting transfers through this scheme, representing an increase of between 20 – 33 per cent on previous daily rates to support unaccompanied children. The Home Office has confirmed that these enhanced rates will be available for all unaccompanied refugee children placed through the transfer scheme, regardless of their route into the UK.