

## Yorkshire and Humber UASC transfer regional rota

### Background

Over the last three years, Yorkshire and Humber has seen a big increase in spontaneous arrivals of UASC. The areas most acutely affected are local authorities along the east coast (Hull, North East Lincs, and North Lincs) where individual and groups of unaccompanied children are arriving at ports. This is leading to a divergence in UASC number across the region, with three local authorities out of fifteen in the region at or above their 0.07 of child population threshold [see table 1 below].

Starting January 2020 for 12 months' trial or until implementation of a national model, whichever is sooner, this process would transfer newly arrived UASC from the 'entry' local authority area which is above its 0.07 threshold to other 'receiving' areas with greater capacity to support UASC.

The process is based on the principles of the national [NTS protocol](#), but amended for to meet the needs of our region. The process would transfer 18 children in one round (based on current numbers we would expect to transfer up to 20 young people per year through this process).

The scheme will be based on a simple calculation of the difference between number of UASC already in the area, and the area's 0.07 threshold, and the number of transfers in each 'round' calculated accordingly. The maximum number of referrals to an area 'per round' is two.

The scheme is for young people aged less than 17 years 9 months at the time of arrival in the UK, to ensure they are eligible to receive leaving care services in the receiving area.

	0.07% of child population	Total number of UASC looked after by the LA (30/6/19)	distribution by UASC placement capacity
Barnsley	35	4	1
Bradford	99	26	2
Calderdale	32	12	1
Doncaster	46	6	2
East Riding	44	12	1
Hull	39	37	0
Kirklees	69	11	2
Leeds	115	55	2
North East Lincs	24	26	0
North Lincolnshire	25	25	0
North Yorkshire	82	23	2
Rotherham	40	9	1
Sheffield	81	26	2
Wakefield	49	29	1
York	26	4	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>806</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>18</b>

Table 1 – difference between UASC in care and 0.07 to calculate capacity within the rota.

Funding for the caring for the UASC would transfer with the child, so the entry LA could claim funding for the period while the child is in their care and the receiving LA would claim from the date of transfer onwards. Full funding instructions can be found on the [government website](#).

### **Process**

In order to understand the baseline position across the region, all LAs should notify Migration Yorkshire of all new UASC arrivals in their area, providing the following information:

Name of young person	Date of Birth	sex	nationality	language	Comments/other info

Notifications should be sent to the UASC Regional Coordinator at Migration Yorkshire using secure email to [Delphine.jacobs@migrationyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:Delphine.jacobs@migrationyorkshire.org.uk)

The rota would work round the LAs, once an area had accepted their 1 or 2 referrals, they would 'step off' and the next LA would receive the referral/s. We would ask one area to step up to the first receiving LA area and would work alphabetically from there.

Receiving LAs would treat referrals made through the rota in the same way as a new presentation in their area, this would ensure fairness across the region. Particular issues or barriers in a receiving LA would be discussed with the UASC Regional Coordinator at Migration Yorkshire and where necessary referral to an area can be paused, but this would be exceptional and temporary (e.g. they would step back on to the rota as soon as reasonably practicable).

### **Procedure for transfer cases**

- The entry LA completes [Unique Unaccompanied Child Record](#) (UUCR) Part A and Part B and sends it to Migration Yorkshire.
- Migration Yorkshire sends the referral to the next area on the rota using their agreed referral mechanism by completing Part C of the UUCR. They are the receiving LA.
- The receiving LA responds with the timescales set out in the NTS Protocol and liaises with the entry LA to arrange for the physical transfer of the young person.

Timescales:

Entry LA	Decision to request transfer	Within working 2 days of arrival
Migration Yorkshire	Referral sent to the relevant area according to the rota	By the end of the next working day after receiving the referral
Receiving LA	Confirm acceptance of referral	Within 2 working days
Entry and Receiving LAs	Completion of physical move to new area	Within 10 working days of referral acceptance

At a maximum, the transfer should have been completed within 15 working days, and LAs should endeavour to complete the transfers more quickly whenever possible to ensure the child moves to their long term area as soon as possible after arriving in the UK.

Both the entry and receiving LAs should keep the UASC Regional Coordinator at Migration Yorkshire informed throughout.

Once the transfer has been completed, the receiving LA completed Part D of the UUCR and returns it to Migration Yorkshire.

Migration Yorkshire will notify the Home Office of the case transfer. This will ensure the receiving LA can claim funding for the UASC transferred into their care.

### **Principles and best practice**

The entry LA must decide whether it is in the young person's best interest to transfer before starting the process. There may be reasons not to transfer including medical treatment, family connections or other factors which mean the child should remain in the entry LA area.

The region will attempt to keep small friendship groups together on an ad-hoc basis, with agreement of the receiving LA.

Some young people will have claimed asylum at the port. The entry and receiving LA must ensure there is clarity about the child's immigration status at the point of transfer. If the child has already received legal advice about their claim this must also be passed on as part of the transfer process.

Within the region, we can carry out transfers for young people who have not yet been screened by immigration as long as the Home Office has been notified of their presence by email to [LeedsUASCEnquiries@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:LeedsUASCEnquiries@homeoffice.gov.uk). The entry or receiving LA can complete the Pre-Interview Questionnaire (PIQ) and clarification whether or not it has been completed must be part of the transfer process. For UASC who have not been screened prior to transfer, this should be completed within 13 weeks to ensure funded continues.

Young people who arrive at over the age of 17 years 9 months should remain in their entry authority until their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, when they will be eligible to transfer to adult asylum support.