

### STATUS OF EXISTING REFUGEES

Resettled refugees have five years temporary right to remain in the UK and during that period have the same rights to access services including employment and education as UK citizens. At the end of this period if they wish to stay in the UK they are required to apply for indefinite leave to remain and in addition may apply for British citizenship.

In March 2017, the Government announced that there will be an 'active' review of cases for those with refugee status wishing to apply for indefinite leave to remain after five years of being in the UK. The Home Office has not operated a policy of automatic entitlement previously. A refugee would be granted settlement unless they had engaged in criminal activities or similar or if a ministerial level declaration was made that a particular country was now safe, in which case refugee status for all refugees from that country would be reviewed.

The Home Office instruction <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-under-immigration-rule-334-process> says that the right to stay in Britain may now be refused if:

- There has been a significant and non-temporary change in conditions in their country of origin such that they no longer need protection
- There have been changes in personal circumstances
- The refugee has returned to their country of origin or habitual residence
- The refugee has obtained a national passport from their home country
- There is evidence the original decision to recognise refugee status was incorrect
- Any dependents of the refugee have travelled home or obtained a national passport

The Home Office requires North Yorkshire County Council and the Refugee Council (as the appointed integration support provider) to collect a range of information for programme monitoring and reporting purposes, in accordance with the requirements set out in the Home Office's funding instruction to local authorities:

- The postcode where the family lives
- Any changes in family composition since arrival to the UK (births, deaths, separation, divorce)
- National Insurance Numbers
- The unique pupil number of children in education and whether the educational institution is providing English language support
- Date of first ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) class following arrival to the UK
- Information on whether the individual is currently attending ESOL classes and if not the reason for not attending
- Current ESOL speaking, writing and listening levels
- Average number of ESOL hours attending per week

The Refugee Council is responsible for collecting the following information:

- Current main economic status in the UK
- Date of first employment following arrival to UK
- Whether the individual is currently receiving benefits and if so the type of benefits
- Whether the individual is currently registered with a GP
- The number of times the individual has attended a GP surgery or visited a hospital in the last six months
- General condition of the individual's health
- Whether a mental health need has been identified and if so whether mental health services have been accessed in the UK and if not why not
- Whether the individual has undertaken voluntary work within the last six months (since arrival to the UK)
- Involvement with any groups, clubs or organisations within the last six months (since arrival to the UK)
- The extent to which the local area (within 15/20 minutes walking distance) is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together
- Whether the individual has moved from their initial resettlement accommodation and if so their reason for moving
- Services provided to the individual by an LA funded external provider (education/mental health services/general health care/social care/advice and support on rights, entitlements and responsibilities/child care/cultural orientation/employment and training advice)
- Other comments (significant changes in circumstances such as unexpected spends, other challenges, successes)