

Children's Services Community Based Support

**Sarah Hammond
Interim Corporate
Director, CYPE**

Ashford Hotel

- Weekly parent and child sessions to families arriving and settling in the Ashford hotel offered within the hotel since November 2021
- Community based advice, guidance and support offered within the groups

Canterbury Abbots Barton Hotel

- Support was led by Canterbury City Council
- Open Access groups and young people's groups delivered weekly for parents and young children

Canterbury Holiday Inn Hotel

- Open Access teams worked closely with Migrant Help, DWP and Health to offer multiagency, coordinated wrap-around support daily, moving to weekly once emergency needs for practical provisions such as clothes, toys, books, crafts and toiletries were met

Bespoke groups are also delivered with the local Children's Centre as this provides a better quality of activity based support than within the hotel grounds

Group based support to continue to respond to needs identified

Support for these families is managed within the existing services

- Canterbury is home to c90 children and young people in bridging hotels, Ashford c76. The bulk of the families arrived in September 2021. Additional families have moved into the hotels since that point, with few moving out.
- All pupils have been offered school places/ post 16 places or, where they have recently moved into a hotel, places are being arranged. This has been through the support of local schools and colleges.
- Due to the location of the bridging hotels, transport has had to be arranged for the majority of families.
- In Ashford, where places in certain primary and secondary year groups are tight, Fair Access Protocols have been applied with the support of school leaders (as has been the case for Ukrainian children/young people). This has led to schools going over PAN or breaching infant class size regulations.
- Offering Early Years provision has been a little more challenging due to the location of the hotels. Hover provision have been organised at the hotels with the support of Children's Centre staff. We will need to continue to develop this offer.

The funding for the Afghan families was given as a lump sum:

- 1st September 2021- 30 November 2021: £189,515
- 01 December 2021- 31 March 2022: £219,980.00

Funding was only announced to the end of the financial year.

Funding for 2022-23 has not been confirmed yet but is anticipated.

Case Study: The John Wallis Academy

- 15 Afghan families with 50 primary and secondary school aged children/young people moved into the bridging hotel in Ashford in September 2021.
- As this was expected to be a short stay, The John Wallis Academy offered education support immediately, through a mixture of online work and sessions at the Academy. This included:
 - Physical Activities (Sports/Games etc.)
 - Adventure/Challenge (Orienteering, team games etc.)
 - Creative Activities (Art/Music/Drama etc.)

Staff and pupils volunteered to lead these sessions.

Once it was clear that the families would be in the hotels for more than a few weeks, the Academy formally took all the pupils on role as they had capacity. This enabled families to stay together.

The funding available from the DfE via KCC has been used initiatives, not only to fund additional support staff and translation support but also to create smaller break out/intervention pods to offer bespoke support for the pupils.

The pupils are fully integrated into school life.

Case Study: Parkside Community PS, Canterbury



- First cohort of Afghan pupils arrived in October 2021 and went straight into classes
- There was a focus on making them feel welcome.
- Fun, bespoke language work and games were introduced to help to ‘tune’ pupils into English.
- Close liaison with school staff to address any worries that the pupils/families may have. This included liaising with Canteen staff.
- Teaching resources shared in addition to general strong teaching strategies.
- Afghan parents invited to watch the nativity that their pupils were engaged in.
- Strong liaison with the hotel – built up good rapport with parents
- Parents evening organised at the school with an interpreter present.
- Second cohort of pupils arrived in February 2022, at which point most of the early cohort were speaking in sentences. They were used as a welcoming committee for the second co-hort.
- The third cohort arrived a few weeks ago and have joined a happy established community of Afghan refugee pupils at Parkside

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) in Kent

Reception and Safe Care Service

Louise Fisher
Assistant Director, Front Door

- **July 2016** National Transfer Scheme (NTS) launched
- **March 2018** KCC withdraws from NTS
- **June 2020** KCC returns to NTS
- **August 2020** Despite voluntary NTS transfers it becomes unsafe for KCC to accommodate newly arrived UASC.
- **December 2020** KCC returns to accommodating UASC.
- **June 2021** Despite voluntary NTS transfers it becomes unsafe for KCC to accommodate newly arrived UASC.
- **September 2021** KCC returns to accommodating UASC. Protocol between KCC, Home Office and DfE agreed, resulting in the setting up of a Reception and Safe Care Service, designed to accommodate an additional 120 young people with a 10 day working timescale for NTS transfers.
- **December 2021** Government makes the NTS mandatory for all UK local authorities

- Predominantly 15-17 year old males
- Afghan, Iranian, Iraqi, Eritrean and Sudanese nationals
- As many Afghans as these other nationalities combined, with marked increase in arrivals since the return of Taliban rule in Afghanistan in August 2021
- 25% under 16; 75% 16+
- Increase in female UASC in 2022

Intake since September 2021

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
January	31	36	16	17	10	13	16	107
February	15	28	11	8	11	39	15	92
March	31	34	23	7	29	35	59	132
April	16	48	12	3	15	38	38	106
May	41	30	12	6	18	64	115	158
June	105	32	27	20	26	85	63	47*
July	178	49	14	19	43	68	6	
August	127	42	25	17	44	97	9	
September	102	43	16	12	24	-	90	
October	211	19	19	11	40	-	96	
November	49	11	23	30	24	1	127	
December	40	18	12	12	48	38	96	
TOTAL	946	390	211	162	332	478	730	642

*at 15th June 2022

NTS transfers

	2020	2021	2022
January	-	14	44
February	-	18	77
March	-	36	96
April	-	14	98
May	-	21	95
June	48	50	17*
July	37	24	
August	44	6	
September	47	11	
October	11	69	
November	2	89	
December	11	83	
TOTAL	200	435	427

*at 15th June 2022

NTS transfer timescales

	Shortest wait for NTS transfer (working days)	Longest wait for NTS transfer (working days)	Average wait for NTS transfer (working days)
September 2021	Less than 24 hours	86	23
October 2021	1	102	16
November 2021	1	78	17
December 2021	Less than 24 hours	77	18
January 2022	Less than 24 hours	32	14
February 2022	Less than 24 hours	94	16
March 2022	Less than 24 hours	71	15
April 2022	Less than 24 hours	54	10
May 2022	Less than 24 hours	34	6
June 2022*	1	3	2
TOTAL (average)	Less than 24 hours	63	14

*at 15th June 2022

Outcomes for Children in RSCS

Transferred on NTS	679
Awaiting NTS transfer	95
Remaining in Kent	166
Turned 18 in under 13 weeks	16
Family reunification	21
Age dispute preventing NTS transfer	5
Missing before NTS transfer	29
Referral withdrawn by Home Office	35
Referrals received in September 2021 before protocol agreed	5
TOTAL	1051*

***at 15th June 2022**

- **July 2021** Home Office establishes hotels in South East to meet demand of UASC arrivals KCC cannot safely respond to.
- **September 2021** Home Office operates 5 hotels accommodating over 250 UASC.
- **February 2022** All Home Office hotels are briefly emptied as last UASC referred to KCC.
- **June 2022** Home Office continues to operate 4 hotels, 2 of which are in Kent.
- KCC does not hold corporate parenting responsibilities for UASC in the Kent hotels but does hold statutory safeguarding duties, just as it does for any child resident in Kent.