

# Supporting non-UK nationals facing homelessness

## Case studies of local responses

**Let's end homelessness together**

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# Supporting non-UK nationals facing homelessness

## Case studies of local responses to supporting non-UK nationals with restricted eligibility, including No Recourse to Public Funds

### About this briefing

This briefing provides current examples of how partners in five areas of the country are working together to support people experiencing homelessness who have restricted eligibility to public funds due to their immigration statuses. If you have other examples or resources to share please contact:

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### Finding local solutions to non-UK national homelessness

Homeless Link, in partnership with NACCOM, is delivering a project exploring local solutions to tackling homelessness among non-UK nationals with restricted eligibility to public funds. The work aims to drive more inclusive local homelessness systems and make the case for an effective, coherent strategy to tackling non-UK national homelessness. Across 2021-2022, we are carrying out research and engagement with local authorities and other stakeholders to understand challenges and explore solutions. Evidence and recommendations from the project will continue to be shared via the Homeless Link website into 2022. For more information visit <https://homeless.org.uk/finding-local-solutions-to-migrant-homelessness>

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## Case study: Bradford Council and partners

### The local context

During the operation of Everyone In (Mar 20 – Oct 21) Bradford Council supported just under 150 people with restrictions due to immigration status, from rough sleeping into emergency accommodation. Approximately 30% of individuals were from the EU. Before COVID-19, this cohort was relatively hidden to outreach teams; the intelligence being that many were living and working in car washes, takeaways as well as sofa surfing.

The lockdown forced many of these people on to the street and the knowledge of Everyone In soon spread within the cohort who became more accepting of support. Many of these individuals had the following circumstances which prevented or delayed successful move on from the Everyone In emergency provision:

- Relatively new to the UK preventing Settled Status;
- Cash in hand, unlicensed work – car washes etc.;
- Criminal convictions delaying Home Office decisions;
- Drug and alcohol use, mental health needs or other health issues preventing access to employment;
- Lack of move on accommodation following closure of Everyone In for those still destitute.

### The approach taken

A number of steps were taken by Bradford Council to improve the support available, and outcomes, for this group. This included:

- Using NSAP funding to commission a local charity that specialises in supporting people with restrictions due to immigration status, to provide specific and tailored support to individuals;
- Working in partnership with the DWP, which enabled UC claims to be fast tracked once Settled Status was obtained;
- Working with local colleges and employment/training support agencies to support people around language skills, training and employment;
- Increasing tailored support with immigration applications through online Home Office surgeries. Attendance of an immigration advisor and support organisations was an important element of these sessions in order to safeguard individuals from any potential risk. The surgeries, focussing on Settled Status applications, enabled resolution of more complicated applications and were developed with support of DLUHC advisors.);
- Specialist support agencies (drug and alcohol, mental health etc...) provided outreach support to people in their accommodation which improved access to specialist support for EU nationals. These charities employ people who speak a range of languages;
- The Private Sector Team within Housing Options recruited private landlords to place individuals with low needs into housing at the same costs as B&B accommodation funded by the council. This created a “try before you buy” scenario with these placements converting to ASTs on LHA rate once the individual had obtained settled status and/or was in employment. 24 individuals were placed and 14 of these converted to ASTs;
- Led a call to action for commissioned providers and social landlords to accommodate people with limited eligibility once Everyone In ended. There was a 12 month agreement, to allow time for Settled

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Status to be granted, for the provision of free units of accommodation for individuals whose applications were progressing and those who had lower need to allow for throughput. The council funded further support from reserves for additional costs such as utility bills, furniture, destitute payments, rent in advance to assist with move on etc.;

- The accommodation providers have pledged up to 10 free units for a further 12 month period. These are offered to individuals who are engaging and have a good chance of achieving settled status so there is throughput for others to benefit. Those with more complex cases will be able to access this offer over time, and funding for reconnection is also available.

Partnership working, services provided on an outreach basis, and delivering person-centred support were identified as key factors in the success of the approach taken.

## Partners involved

The council has worked with a number of partner agencies to deliver the activity outlined above, including:

- Hope Housing – support agency for clients with restrictions due to immigration status
- DWP, Bradford College, Skills House – training and employment support
- Home Office – delivered specific advice and support surgeries
- Bevan Healthcare, CGL – specialist support outreach for health needs, drug and alcohol use
- Salvation Army, Manningham HA, Accent Housing, Bridge-It Housing, Dioceses of Leeds – provided free units of accommodation

## Outcomes

- 139 NRPF placements under Everyone In
- 71 individuals supported with achieving Settled Status
- 22 individuals supported into education and training
- 14 individuals supported into securing employment
- 6 Non-EU individuals supported into asylum seeker accommodation and support with applications to the Home Office

## Further info

A case study of the support provided by Hope Housing for non-UK nationals sleeping rough can be found on pages 31-32:

[https://www.feantsa.org/public/user/Good\\_Practices\\_in\\_Supporting\\_Homeless\\_Mobile\\_EU\\_Citizens.pdf](https://www.feantsa.org/public/user/Good_Practices_in_Supporting_Homeless_Mobile_EU_Citizens.pdf)

# Case study: Islington Borough Council

## The local context

Given the complexity of working with people who do not have settled immigration status in the UK, Islington Council identified the need for specialist interventions to enact statutory 'safety-net' duties effectively and then to minimise accommodation and subsistence costs through case resolution. The council hosts the NRPF Network and operates the NRPF Connect database, which provides data and policy support for their own work, whilst also helping other local authorities correctly implement their safeguarding responsibilities to families, adults and children with no recourse to public funds (NRPF).

In Islington, the response for non-UK nationals at risk of homelessness is shaped by having a dedicated NRPF, Refugee and Migrant Service to manage the statutory response under the Care Act 2014 and Children Act 1989. In addition the NRPF service and prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, a specialist NRPF Outreach Officer was also recruited to work with non UK national rough sleepers. The specialist response has been supported both by Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) funding and the council's own expenditure on NRPF caseloads (i.e. accommodation and subsistence provision) and staffing. The pandemic led to the provision of more tailored support to residents and closer working arrangements between homelessness outreach teams and the NRPF service.

Islington Council aims to create a more equal borough where everyone can achieve their full potential in life and has also passed a motion to become a [Borough of Sanctuary](#) through the City of Sanctuary scheme. The corporate direction of the council informs the approach taken when working to end homelessness, with investment in NRPF services being seen as part of this wider strategic response.

## Types of support provided

Islington have taken several steps to provide improved responses to people with NRPF in their area. These include:

- Making use of grant funding related to COVID-19 recovery and initiatives to end rough sleeping to increase casework capacity
- Working with the housing department to commission cost-effective and suitable accommodation that can be used to provide stability in urgent cases where statutory interventions are needed
- Investing in specialist teams – including caseworkers within the Council who oversee individual cases and connect people with other specialist services such as immigration advisers, domestic violence support organisations or other avenues of assistance, such as asylum support
- Ensuring statutory assessments under the Care Act 2014 and Children Act 1989 are completed by colleagues in adult social service and children's services to determine eligibility for financial assistance
- Using NRPF Connect to support casework delivery by 1) monitoring caseloads, spend and resolution rates and evidencing on-going cost pressures when statutory safeguarding responsibilities are engaged 2) working with the Home Office to expedite decision-making and to fulfil the government's stated commitment to treat local authority supported cases with priority 3) tracking where people are in the immigration journey in order to make informed referrals to immigration advisors

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- Commissioning immigration advice provision from OISC registered organisations to help manage complex case and in recognition of the pressure on advice services in Islington who must operate
- Raising subsistence rates from 47-54% of Universal Rates (UC) to 62% of a UC equivalent (with additional costs such as utility bills met directly by the NRPF service), following an internal review and corporate agreement that the increase was consistent with the objective of reducing poverty.

## A corporate response

In March 2020, Islington established a Humanitarian Housing Response to ensure people who were homeless and rough sleeping were accommodated during the pandemic. This enabled them to upscale existing processes for NRPF households.

In June 2021 a formal report was submitted to the Corporate Members Board / Chief Executive recommending the following:

- To continue providing accommodation and subsistence support for 31 single adults until a sustainable solution is achieved (including applications to EUSS and the Home Office, or supported voluntary return)
- To implement new cases summary and casework forms to help monitor case prioritisation
- To prepare funds for further short-term accommodation for 'non eligible' NRPF cases encountered over the following 12 months

The above recommendations were formally agreed, allowing continuation of the Humanitarian Housing Response started in March 2020.

To sustain successful casework practices at a time of increased demand, an invest-to-save business case was made to the council for the recruitment of an additional NRPF caseworker for one year. The extra caseworker position helps to deliver the intensive work needed to resolve cases and reduce spend (see 'types of support provided') and allowed a focus on 15 households that had – despite best efforts – been supported under social services' legislation for over 1000 days and at great expense to the council.

By August 2021, the NRPF Refugee and Migrant Service is again increasing its staffing establishment as part of achieving [Islington Council's pledge to accommodate 15 Afghan Families](#), reflecting how new opportunities can help sustain the specialist response for refugee and migrants in Islington.

## Outcomes and learning

The approach taken in Islington has reduced homelessness, and the numbers of people sleeping rough in the borough has already [decreased by 61%](#) (November 2019 to November 2020). From March 2020 to May 2021, 77 single adults with NRPF were accommodated through the Council's emergency COVID-19 housing response. In addition, a further 57 households were supported under the Care Act 2014 and the Children Act 1989. As has been found by many local authorities, stability of accommodation coupled with good casework enabled sustainable outcomes to be achieved in the majority of cases closed. Reason for case closure reported in Islington are as follows:

1. Recourse to public funds being enabled (43% of cases closed)
2. People accessing asylum support (28%)
3. No longer eligible, including transfer to GLA hotels or people leaving the accommodation (20%)
4. Returning to country of origin (9%)

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With the decision to provide continued support to people accommodated during the pandemic, the expenditure for NRPF support from Islington Council has increased making it a challenge to keep expenditure for families, adults with care and support needs and 'everyone in' cases within the £1.2 million per annum budget for accommodation and subsistence Islington council estimates, however, that the financial impact of continuing support to 31 'everyone in' cases in 2021-2022 can at least be reduced from £540,000 to £398,500 (conservative estimate) over-the-year through active case-resolution approaches.

The legislative framework under-which a local authority can provide 'safety net' support remains limited and has not been changed by the government despite the 'everyone in' response or the wider strategic objective of ending homelessness. The council therefore acknowledges that action being taken to continue support for this cohort is exceptional and is grounded in a desire to see a return on money committed during the pandemic and efforts already made to engage with vulnerable people. The NRPF, Refugee and Migrant Service will therefore continue to review the approach taken over the course of 2021-2022 with a focus on helping those supported to make informed decisions about their future in the UK and to avoid a return to the streets.

## Further information

The NRPF network provides general information and guidance for local authorities on the rights and entitlements for people with NRPF, and published the 20-21 NRPF Connect data report and recommendations for central and local government: [www.nrpfnetwork.org.uk](http://www.nrpfnetwork.org.uk)

Further information from Islington Council on their services for people with NRPF:

[Refugees and migrants PP | Islington Council | Islington Council](#)

[Nationality and Citizenship | Islington Council](#)

RAMFEL (Refugee and Migrant Forum Essex and London):

[www.ramfel.org.uk](http://www.ramfel.org.uk)

Praxis:

<https://www.praxis.org.uk/>

## Case study: Lewisham Law Centre and Lewisham Council

### The local issue

Lewisham is a 'Borough of Sanctuary' and in 2021 became the country's first 'Council of Sanctuary'. As part of its Borough of Sanctuary Strategy, Lewisham Council has removed its embedded Home Office officer, pledged to not make referrals under the rough sleeping immigration rules with Homeless Link's Support Don't Deport campaign and promoted Doctors of the World's 'Safe Surgeries' initiative to improve access to GP services.

Lewisham Council had noted the dramatic increase in local authority spending occasioned by immigration reforms such as the 2012 imposition of the No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) restriction on Zambrano carers and the 'right to rent' restrictions imposed by the Immigration Act 2014.

Individuals and families with NRPF presenting as homeless to the Council required access to legal support to regularise their immigration status or lift the NRPF condition on their visas.

### Steps taken to address this

#### Lewisham Law Centre

Lewisham Law Centre (LLC) is delivered via Southwark Law Centre (SLC) and comprises a solicitor (approx. £60,000 with on-costs) and a paralegal (approx. £40,000 with on-costs) working on immigration matters for Lewisham residents.

In May 2019, LLC entered into an agreement with Lewisham Council to take 30 referrals from the Council's NRPF team over the course of a year. This agreement allowed LLC to transfer its existing immigration solicitor from Southwark Law Centre to work full time on NRPF cases in Lewisham and hire a new immigration solicitor to work on the immigration caseload in Southwark.

The aims of the agreement with Lewisham Council are:

- To assist destitute migrants to regularise their immigration status, giving them access to employment, welfare benefits housing and improving their socio-economic wellbeing.
- To assist those migrants with insecure immigration status whose cases are the most complex to make an application for leave to remain.

Within eight months, LLC's immigration solicitor had already taken the 30 referrals agreed to with the Council. By July 2020, LLC had taken on 25 additional immigration referrals and 13 'change of condition' referrals under a renewed contract.

### Outcomes

From May 2019 to July 2020, LLC had achieved 16 successful immigration applications; one successful asylum claim; and two successful citizenship applications for children. A total of 15 clients also obtained access to public funds through their work.

Details of the cases progressed are as follows:

- 36 leave to remain cases on the basis of private/family life with 10 successful applications;
- 1 successful leave to remain case on the basis of health;



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- 4 British national applications for children of which 2 were successful;
- 3 Asylum cases of which 1 was successful;
- 3 indefinite leave to remain cases following domestic violence, of which 2 were successful;
- 8 EU settled status cases of which 3 were successful;
- 21 'change of condition' cases of which 13 were successful, with a further 2 clients gaining access to public funds through other applications.

### **Impact on local authority spending**

Using the letters showing confirmation of support (maintenance and accommodation) provided by Lewisham Council, SLC calculates that as people supported by the project have moved onto public funds following a successful application, the potential sums saved by the council amount to £32,060.19 per month or £384,722.28 per year.

## Case study: The Oxfordshire Homeless Movement partnership

### The local issue

Prior to the pandemic, there was very little in place to support non-UK nationals with restricted eligibility within Oxfordshire, despite non-UK nationals making up around 10% of the rough sleeping population. This was recognised as a key gap in provision prior to the pandemic by the partners in Oxfordshire Homeless Movement (OHM), a coalition which brings together key stakeholders across the County.

Through the Everyone In scheme, homelessness organisations and Oxfordshire Councils housed approx. 350 people across a number of venues. Of these, approx. 20 people were identified as having restricted entitlements based on their immigration status, including NRPF. The majority of these were from outside the EU.

### Steps taken to address this

The need to find longer-term solutions for this cohort being accommodated in Everyone In hotels kick-started project planning. The OHM steering group agreed that this should be a priority and in late 2020/early 2021 facilitated the design of a project that brought together its partners' varying areas of expertise and resource.

The objective of the programme is to provide accommodation based on Housing First principles for individuals alongside immigration advice, and person-centred holistic support, to the point where they become self-sufficient and contribute positively to the Oxfordshire community. The project is planned to run for five years, with an estimated cost per person per year of just under £14,500 including rent, support, advice, property set up and maintenance<sup>1</sup>.

The approach involves:

- A housing-led approach, which prioritises individuals' choice and control and has no defined end-point. Suitable, accessible housing is provided at a peppercorn rent.
- A strength based approach: Understanding strengths, weaknesses and aspirations and designing a support and development programme suited to the individual.
- Regular subsistence payments and a support offer including mental health, wellbeing, drug and alcohol and employment support.
- Resolving immigration status to help people to access mainstream benefits and support.
- Partnership working with multi-agency case management: regular meetings with project partners to share information and progress residents' cases.

### Project partners and roles

- **Soha**, a housing association in Oxfordshire, who's CEO sits on the OHM steering group, committed to offering housing for 12 individuals charging only a peppercorn rent.
- **Aspire** provides property management and maintenance services

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<sup>1</sup> This cost estimate is correct when the project is supporting 12 people, is decreases to £13,500 pppa if supporting the full cohort of 21 people.

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- **Asylum Welcome** provide expert immigration and asylum casework to support access to and maximise effectiveness of legally aided help, as well as supporting applications to the EU Settlement Scheme.
- **Connection Support** is the main support provider, creating tailored support plans to holistically care for clients' wellbeing, and specialist trauma support. Three part-time support workers, all with experience of the immigration system, deliver support to the project's clients.

## Measuring success

OHM will work with the Centre for Homelessness Impact (CHI) to ensure the project is evaluated independently. The project will use a combination of 'hard' measures – like resolution of immigration status and tenancy sustainment - alongside a 'soft' storytelling methodology known as "Most Significant Change", which is well suited to assessing individual outcomes and for use with the small number of people in scope.

## Progress so far

When the first interim accommodation unit closed, all individuals with NRPF were able to be accommodated in housing provided free of charge by University College, before 3 people were moved into project accommodation and 1 person was moved to temporary accommodation provided by partner Aspire until long term accommodation can be sourced. As of September 2021, the project is supporting 13 clients and housing nine.

The project team is currently working with St Mungo's and Oxford City Council to establish the total number of people requiring accommodation with the remaining Everyone In venue closes. The hope is to be able to house all 20 in the cohort by the end of summer 2022.

## Factors that have helped

- Having a well-established partnership with a shared vision, allowing multiple organisations to come together easily and use different specialisms to react quickly to the pandemic situation.
- Being a City of Sanctuary, with the project reflecting this ethos.
- Support from Oxford City, District and County Councils, including help to identify funding sources.
- The availability of social housing at peppercorn rent through Soha Housing Association.

## Challenges and barriers to sustainability

OHM estimates that supporting approx. 20 people over five years will cost in the region between £1.36 and £1.48 million. The funds so far have come from successful grant applications to trusts and foundations and local philanthropists, but much more funding is required to secure the project for five years, to place the full cohort of 20 and allow for referrals as people move on. As of September 2021, the project is around £30,000 short of being able to support 12 people for 18 months.

## Further information

- [Oxfordshire Homeless Movement's website](#)

# Case study: Reading Borough Council

## The local issue

Reading's commissioned street outreach service had seen an increase in people with restricted immigration status sleeping rough prior to 2020, most significantly EEA nationals with precarious employment who tended to live in encampments outside of the town centre. Although an assertive outreach approach was taken, it was recognised that these individuals would remain rough sleeping, seeking employment and accessing freely available food, due to the limited accommodation options and specialist advice. Reading had allocated RSI funding to reconnect foreign nationals to accommodation in their country of origin but there was also little uptake of this reconnection offer.

Prior to the pandemic, Reading were already working with partners to develop a response for individuals who were not in the process of seeking asylum. Statutory and community sector partners had identified gaps in immigration advice, guidance and accommodation options. To respond to this, a sub-group of the Reading Homelessness Partnership (HoP) was formed and included the Red Cross, Reading Refugee Support Group, Citizens Advice Reading, Reading Borough Council and others. But with limited resource, funding and capacity across the specialist agencies it was difficult to move forward beyond meeting basic needs provision that was already provided.

Key challenges experienced in engaging with this group:

- An independent client group with complex needs
- Significant and entrenched mental health and substance misuse needs
- Significant and predominant goal for individuals is to gain employment
- Complex immigration cases due to offending histories
- Language and translation requirements
- Cultural distrust of UK authorities and little support provided in countries of origin

## A partnership approach to EUSS applications

Reading's Everyone In offer was active between March and August 2020. From December 2020, additional grants acquired via the Cold Weather Fund and Protect Programme funded a new 'off the streets' winter provision offer, which was active until the end of March 2021. Those accommodated under Everyone In, Cold Weather and Protect Programme initiatives have continued to be from the date they were placed, whilst move-on options are scoped. Several people with restricted eligibility were accommodated; predominantly Polish and Portuguese nationals. The small number of non-EEA nationals accommodated received support from specialist solicitors (provided by local charities) to obtain leave to remain; which was more complex usually due to offending histories.

In July 2020, the council received NSAP funding to employ both a Co-ordinator and an NRPF Navigator based in two local charities, with the predominant aim to support individuals to apply for the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS). The two staff and a personal budgets fund was approximately £65k. The Co-ordinator and Navigator

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worked with people accommodated under Everyone In and Winter Provision, as well as those precariously housed and at risk of rough sleeping.

For a full year, from September 2020, the council chaired a project group which met weekly to oversee the work of the project and direct support agencies and their actions. Three support providers are involved and have clients allocated to them:

- **St Mungo's:** commissioned assertive outreach provider working with people on the streets and hotels
- **Launchpad:** commissioned cross-tenure floating support provider, signposting advice and Work and Life Skills support which was made available to this cohort. Launchpad employed the NRPF Co-ordinator via quick secondment internally and made partnership links with Settled.org for specialist advice
- **FAITH:** previous provider of winter shelter network, which was predominantly occupied by people with restricted eligibility. They provide project Navigators (2 P/T workers) which are now permanent roles as well as meeting basic needs (food handouts and parcels)

The types of support provided by the project includes:

- co-ordination and case management of EUSS applications;
- support to arrange and attend embassy and Home Office appointments;
- liaison with solicitors at Here for Good charity;
- supporting applications for ID documents;
- ensuring application outcomes are pursued and prioritised;
- 'personalisation pot' to pay for associated costs (embassy travel costs, ID, immigration/legal advice and entry to employment costs).

Given the multiple needs and complex immigration issues many clients faced, wider holistic support was provided before broaching or beginning a EUSS application. Once leave to remain is obtained, the clients are referred to the Homelessness Prevention Team for support with accessing accommodation. Support agencies continue to provide navigation and support until the individual is in settled accommodation.

## Outcomes of the NRPF Project

Successful outcomes to date have tended to be for those individuals more willing to engage and without offending histories. Those where applications are still in progress have higher needs, more complex immigration cases, difficulties sustaining employment and have intermittent engagement. Immigration cases with outstanding or complex offending histories are held at 'Suitability Stage' by the Home Office until this is resolved and some have paper applications submitted, due to lack of identification or not being able to obtain identification due to outstanding offences, which are being processed more slowly.

A total of 81 people have been supported by the project since July 2020; almost all being from the EU. Accurate on 1<sup>st</sup> October, 28 individuals are still supported by the NRPF Project. 18 have EU Pre-Settled/Settled Status or Indefinite/Limited Leave to Remain outcomes but are still seeking settled accommodation and 10 have submitted applications pending leave to remain outcomes. Other outcomes for the cohort supported since July 2020 include:

- 23 obtained a status/leave to remain outcome and moved into accommodation (i.e. private rented, supported housing, reconnected);

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- 9 abandoned placements, 7 of whom were placed again with a positive or ongoing accommodation offer;
- 8 were evicted due to behaviours or non-engagement; none of these are rough sleeping currently;
- 1 went into custody;
- 1 individual fled DV and 1 entered Mental health hospital (on two occasions)
- 10 individuals were supported by the NRPF Project without emergency accommodation being provided.

Throughout July 2021, 4 individuals without recourse were verified by the outreach team, but each on only one occasion. Throughout August and September 2021, one of these individuals was verified again. In September, 2 new individuals without recourse were verified bedded down without an offer from the streets being available to them.

Funding for the NRPF Project has now come to an end. The Reading HoP are looking to transform the project into a strategic working group which will aim to explore accommodation options and funding streams for clients with restricted eligibility and developing a response with voluntary and community sector partners.

## Other partners/agencies involved

Along with those outlined above, other partners and wider support agencies include:

**Health Outreach Liaison Team (HOLT):** Funded by NHS to provide physical and mental health outreach to people sleeping rough or not being engaged by mainstream health providers. They provide assessment and testing, referrals for chronic and serious health conditions and supported with results and hospital admissions during lockdowns

**Reading Refugee Support Group:** Provide legal advice and support for non-EEA nationals with complex and long-standing applications for leave to remain in addition to their core service for those seeking refugee and asylum support.

**Red Cross Reading:** Provide one-off income grants to meet basic needs

**Settled.org:** Provide ad-hoc immigration advice, and EUSS application services paid for with NSAP funding <https://settled.org.uk/en/>.

**Here for Good:** Provide free legal advice and EUSS case management for migrants with offending histories applying for leave to remain <https://www.hereforgoodlaw.org/>.

**Citizens Advice Reading:** Provided OISC Level 1 and Level 2 immigration advice although their funding recently ended so the other advice agencies are relied upon.

**Home Office:** Since June 2021, a single point of contact has provided weekly updates on outstanding cases. This has been useful as there were previously initial difficulties in obtaining responses from them. This was enabled following raising concerns to DLUHC RSI advisor.

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**New Beginnings:** Previously provided year round shelter provision. RSI funds were allocated to obtain them Housing Justice accreditation and support. They are currently exploring options for COVID-19 safe provision this coming winter, and individuals with restricted eligibility will be prioritised.

### Factors that have helped

- Suspension of derogation which led to the pilot and ongoing work with this group
- The existing Homelessness Partnership (HoP) and NRPF sub-group
- The ability to use NSAP grant funding to take a targeted approach to this cohort including funds for accommodation, translation and immigration advice, during the nationally extended suspension of derogation period due to the pandemic
- Having dedicated roles able to take time to build relationships and establish trust
- Having a Single Point Of Contact at the Home Office, facilitated by the RSI advisor.

### Challenges and barriers to providing support

- Full restriction placed upon local government not to spend any grant funding on those without recourse who sleep rough including support and accommodation
- Increased level of planning required between agencies due to the complexity of organising support;
- Obtaining IDs and making appointments from embassies especially when unable to travel to London;
- Obtaining/providing evidence of residing in the UK;
- Capacity of resource in specialist immigration services;
- Initial slow responses from the Home Office and EU Resolution Centre (overcome through Single Point of Contact)
- Reconnection limitations due to COVID-19
- Employment limitations as a consequence of the pandemic.

### Further information

A blog on Reading's approach was published by the Street Support Network in May 2021:

[https://news.streetsupport.net/2021/05/18/no-recourse-to-public-funds/?utm\\_source=rss&utm\\_medium=rss&utm\\_campaign=no-recourse-to-public-funds](https://news.streetsupport.net/2021/05/18/no-recourse-to-public-funds/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=no-recourse-to-public-funds)

The Terms of Reference for the NRPF Project Group can be found here in the downloads with this document <https://homeless.org.uk/our-work/resources/non-uk-nationals>



## What we do

Homeless Link is the national membership charity for frontline homelessness services. We work to improve services through research, guidance and learning, and campaign for policy change that will ensure everyone has a place to call home and the support they need to keep it.

## Let's end homelessness together

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