Nottinghamshire's Local Offer for Care Leavers

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)

Young people who are looked after children or care leavers seeking asylum

working with

Nottinghamshire County Council

Ashfield District Council

Bassetlaw District Council – North Nottinghamshire –

Broxtowe Borough Council

Gedling Borough Council

Mansfield District Council

Newark & Sherwood District Council

Rushcliffe Borough Council

Is it for me?

If you are a child or young person seeking asylum and in the care of Nottinghamshire, then we are here to support you. We will look at your future options and choices and offer the help you might need.

Being a care leaver

If you are under 18, then you will be looked after by Nottinghamshire County Council the same as any other child or young person who needs our help. When you turn 18 years old you will not be looked after anymore, and you will be classed as a care leaver.

Being a care leaver means that you will have access to Nottinghamshire's Local Offer for Care Leavers, and this can mean you get support from a personal adviser until your 21st birthday, and then support from our 21Plus Service until your 25th birthday. Decisions made by the Home Office about your asylum claim can affect your entitlement as a care leaver. Your personal adviser and/or solicitor will be able to support you to understand how these asylum decisions will affect you.

18+

The unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) Team

In Nottinghamshire, we have a team of social workers and personal advisers who support you until your 21st birthday. This is called the **UASC Team**. After that, you might also get support from our 21Plus Service until your 25th birthday.

The UASC Team understand the experience and journey of young people seeking asylum. They will help you adjust to life in the UK, to work out what support you might need as a care leaver. This can be practical things like where you live, what work or college options you have and how you can look after your health and wellbeing. When you talk to your personal adviser about these things it will be recorded in your Pathway Plan.

If you do not have a decision from the Home Office on your asylum application, the Pathway Plan will look at three different options. We call this triple planning:

- Your plan for a future in the UK if you are given leave to remain
- Your plan whilst you are waiting for a decision or appeal outcome
- Your plan if you have been refused leave to remain in the UK and do not have any further appeal rights.

Some of the conversations in your Pathway Plan will be difficult as you might not want to think about your asylum decision being refused. We think it is important to be honest and open with you, which is why we must make plans for things when they're going well, and when they are not going so well. The UASC Team must also follow the law on asylum and immigration. If the law says you are not allowed help from the UASC Team or 21Plus Service, we will explain this to you and let you know where else you can go for help and support.

Your asylum application

We will help you to find a solicitor to complete your asylum applications in the timescale set by the Home Office. We will also support you in meetings with the Home Office to talk about your asylum claim. These meetings will sometimes be held at our UASC Team office. We will make sure we are with you during these interviews and that you are supported before and after the interview with any difficult or upsetting conversations you have had to have.

These are the types of leave which could be granted:

Refugee status
Refugee status is given to someone recognised as a refugee. A person given refugee status is normally granted leave to remain in the UK for five years, and at the end of that period they can apply for Indefinite Leave to Remain.

Indefinite Leave to Remain / Humanitarian Protection
This immigration status is given by the Home Office, and it gives permission for you to stay in the UK on a permanent basis.

Discretionary Leave
This is granted to a person who the Home Office has decided does not qualify for refugee status or humanitarian protection, but where there are other strong reasons why the person needs to stay in the UK temporarily.

When you receive a decision from the Home Office, we will explain what this means to you, and make sure that you have access to some legal advice. If you are refused leave to remain and no longer allowed to appeal this decision, current UK law stops support we give you as a care leaver. If this happens, we will do an assessment with you to decide whether removing our support would breach your human rights and leave you without any accommodation or financial support.

If you are allowed to apply for British Citizenship, then we will support you to fund your application and will help you with any study materials or books you need to prepare for your 'Life in the UK' test.

Education and achievement

Sometimes, you are not allowed to work whilst you are waiting for a decision from the Home Office. You will be encouraged to go to school or college to learn English and support other learning such as Maths and IT skills. Learning English for the first time is called ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages). If you have been to school in your home country your college will support you to learn English at a level which is right for you.

Learning a new language and skills can take a long time and require you to progress through different levels, we will help you to understand this and advise you about future careers or further learning.

Things we can support you with:

- Personal Education Plans (until your 18th birthday) to make sure you are learning at the right pace for you and making progress. We will then include any further plans over 18 within your Pathway Plan
- Access to our specialist achievement adviser who will help you with learning or working in the UK
- Employability briefings to help you decide what kind of work you might want to do in the future
- Financial support for transport to get to and from your school or college
- Specialist equipment, books or course materials to help you with your studies
- Volunteering and work experience which you can do if you are not legally allowed to work.

Life in the UK

It can be quite scary living in an area you don't know, with people you don't know and who don't always speak the same language as you.

We want to make sure that you have access to good interpreters who can help make sure you are able to say what you want, and help you understand what we are saying.

We will make sure that your dietary, cultural, and religious needs are met, as well as anything else that is important to you.

We will also help you look at what organisations, groups, or support you might want to join in relation to things from your culture, religion and community.

We want you to feel safe and happy whilst living in the UK and have access to the right support at the right time to help you feel part of the community, understand traditions, expectations (culturally and legally) and adjust to your life in the UK.

Housing

When you first come to Nottinghamshire, we will provide you with suitable accommodation. This might be in a family who we call foster carers, or living in a family home but being a bit more independent - we call this supported lodgings, or you might be in a shared house with other young people and staff will support you during the day and night. You will always have your own room. Once you reach 18 years then we will look at how you can increase your levels of independence with less support from housing staff. If you are in a foster home you might want to stay there after age 18 to either finish your education, or because you and your foster carers want you to stay – we can help make this happen and we call this 'Staying Put'.

If you are granted Leave to Remain, you are allowed to apply for a council tenancy when you are 18 years, this can be in any of Nottinghamshire's seven district councils (Nottingham City is not one of the council's you can apply to) and some of these areas you might not have visited before. You have the choice which area you want to live in Nottinghamshire and so your personal adviser will support you to make a council housing application with priority, because you are a care leaver.

Money

When you are over 18 years and living in the UK, if you are not working then you need to claim benefits to help you buy the things you need to live, like food and clothing and paying your bills. We will help you apply for your benefits and make sure you have the money you are entitled to. If the Home Office tell you that you are not allowed to claim benefits, then we will provide you with financial support until you receive any further decisions from the Home Office. These payments are usually issued weekly into your bank account.

Things we can support you with:

- Weekly personal allowance (under 18 years) and ongoing support if you are not allowed to claim for benefits
- Home Establishment Grant to help you furnish your accommodation and home
- Clothing allowance (under 18 years) and ongoing support if you are not allowed to claim for benefits
- Help to access employment, education and/or training which might include bus/tram fares to get to and from college or work
- Access to apply to the **You Know Your Mind** to help support your emotional and mental health and wellbeing.

Being healthy and happy

It is important that you look after both your physical and mental health. When you are looked after by us, you will be expected to see a doctor to make sure you happy and healthy. We will also make sure you are registered with a doctor, dentist, and optician. These are called Primary Health Services and they are the first place to go to check your health, teeth, and eyes. If you need more specialist health services, then your doctor will ask a specialist doctor at the hospital to see you.

We know that you may be feeling sad being away from your family, friends and home. You may also have had a long and difficult journey to the UK. We can help find you someone that you can talk to about how you feel. We call them mental health support workers, and their job is to explore things that make you feel better and happier.

In Nottinghamshire, we have a fund called You Know Your Mind. This is for young people to apply to access money to buy things that can help them improve their emotional health and wellbeing. If you think of something that might help you, then speak with your social worker or your personal adviser.

If you need help to try to find or contact your family, then we can help you speak with the British Red Cross International Family Tracing Service. For more information speak with your personal adviser.

Being safe

We want to support you to feel safe. We also want to help you to understand life in the UK and plan for your future.

Sometimes there might be people who you met on your journey to the UK or who are from your home country, who might have asked you to do things you don't want to do. They may have asked you to go against the rules set by the Home Office - such as working whilst your asylum claim is being decided. They might still be in touch with you, or you might feel scared of them or worried about what they have said to you.

If we are concerned about people you know, or that you are friends with, then we will tell you about our worries. Sometimes, to keep you safe we might have to work with the police and/or other organisations. If we must do this, then we will always try and be as open and honest as we can with you.

If you are ever worried or scared, then you should talk to your social worker or personal adviser about this. If you would like to speak with another trusted adult, then we can find someone suitable for you to talk with.

Contacts and agencies

You can contact your social worker and/or personal adviser in the UASC Team either through their contact details which they will share with you or calling the Duty telephone number on 0115 977 3300 or via email at uasc@nottscc.gov.uk.

If there is an emergency and you need to speak to someone during the night, weekend, or other times outside of office hours, then you can contact Nottinghamshire Social Care's Emergency Duty Team on 0300 456 4546 or you can visit our other Local Offers at www.nottshelpyourself.org.uk.

Other agencies you might access for support are:

Refugee Council
www.refugeecouncil.org.uk

Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Refugee Forum
www.nottsrefugeeforum.org.uk

British Red Cross International Family Tracing Service
ifteast@redcross.org.uk

Migrant Help
www.migranthelpuk.org / 0808 8000 630

English:
We can provide this leaflet to you in other languages or in audio version. If you would like this, then please ask your social worker or personal adviser.

Albanian:
Ne mund t'jua ofrojmë këtë fletëpalosje në gjuhë të tjera ose në version audio. Nëse e dëshironi këtë, atëherë ju lutemi pyesni punonjësin(en) tuaj të socialit ose këshilltarin(en) personal(e).

Arabic:
يمكننا تقديم هذه النشرة لك بلغات أخرى أو بإصدار صوتي. إذا كنت ترغب في ذلك، فيُرجى سؤال الأخصائي الاجتماعي أو مستشارك الخاص.

Dari:
ما می توانیم این جزوه را به زبان های دیگر یا به صورت فایل صوتی نیز در اختیار شما قرار دهیم. اگر علاقه دارید، لطفاً از مددکار اجتماعی یا مشاور شخصی خود بخواهید تا در اختیار شما قرار دهد.

Farsi:
ما می‌توانیم این جزوه را به زبان‌های دیگر یا به‌صورت نسخه صوتی در اختیار شما قرار دهیم. اگر این را می‌خواهید، لطفاً آن را از مددکار اجتماعی یا مشاور شخصی خود درخواست کنید.

Kurdish Badini:
هەروەها، ئەم دکارن ڤێ بەلاڤۆکێ ب زمانێن دن ئان ژی وەکی فایلا دەنگی بدن وە. هەکە هوون ڤێ یەکێ دخوازن، ژکەرەما خوە ژ هاریکاریێ جڤاکی ئان شێورمەندێ شەخسیێ خوە داخواز بکن.

Kurdish Sorani:
هەروەها، دەتوانین ئەم نامیلکەیە بە زمانی تر یان بە شێوەی فایلی دەنگی پێشکەشت بکەین. ئەگەر ئەمەت دەوێت، تکایە لە یاریدەری کۆمەڵایەتیت یان ڕاوێژکاری شەخسیت دوا بکە.

Pashto:
موږ دغه بروشر په نورو ژبو او غږیز فایل کې هم درکولی شو. که یې غواړئ، مهرباني وکړئ له خپل ټولنیز کارکوونکي یا شخصي مشاور ته ووایئ.

Tigrinya:
ነዚ ጽሑፍ ብኻልእ ቋንቋታት ወይ ብድምጺ ክንህበኩም ንኽእል ኢና። እዚ ምስእትደልዩ፡ ሽዑ በጃኹም ንማሕበራዊ ሰራሕተኛኹም ወይ ንውልቃዊ ኣማኻሪኹም ሕተቱ።

Vietnamese:
Chúng tôi có thể cung cấp tờ rơi này cho bạn bằng các ngôn ngữ khác hoặc phiên bản âm thanh (audio). Nếu bạn muốn điều này, hãy hỏi nhân viên xã hội hoặc cố vấn cá nhân của bạn.