

THE UK RESETTLEMENT SCHEME KEY INFORMATION FOR KENT SCHOOLS

(July 2021)

Background

The UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS) started in March 2021. Its purpose is to resettle vulnerable refugees in need of protection from a range of regions of conflict and instability across the globe. The UK government previously responded to the refugee crisis by launching the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) in January 2014 and the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme (VCRS) in 2016. Both schemes have now come to an end however the government remains committed to continue to offer a direct, safe and legal route to the UK for refugees in need of protection under the new UK Resettlement Scheme.

How the scheme works

The scheme is open to refugees identified by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) who would benefit from resettlement to the UK because of their vulnerability. It prioritises those who cannot be supported effectively in their region of origin. The scheme does not have a specific geographical focus. Initially it is expected that the majority of refugees resettled will come from the Middle East North Africa (MENA) region. However, over time the nationalities of refugees resettled may change in response to world events and the global context.

Refugees are assessed for resettlement by the UNHCR against their resettlement submission categories:

- Legal and/or physical protection needs
- Survivors of torture and/or violence
- Medical needs
- Women and girls at risk
- Family reunification
- Children and adolescents at risk
- Lack of foreseeable alternative durable solutions

Local authority participation in the scheme is voluntary.

Once cases have been accepted for the UK Resettlement Scheme, the Home Office pass the cases to a local authority that has agreed to participate in the scheme. The referral will include details on family make up, age and specific needs. All family members undergo a migration health assessment conducted by medics from the IOM (International Organisation for Migration). If accepted, the local authority (both district and county in two-tier areas) will need to arrange housing, school places and any additional support that is required. An arrival date is agreed with the Home Office.

Status of the families coming to the UK under the scheme

All family members are given full refugee status for five years and as such are able to work and claim benefits and other public funds from day one.

The arrangements for accommodation and resettlement support

The Home Office has specified exactly what support needs to be in place for the families resettled under the scheme. The support provided will be intensive in the initial weeks following arrival. This will decrease as the family successfully integrate into their local community and settle into their new home. See next section for who is providing this in Kent.

Accommodation will be provided in the private rented sector. The families will be able to claim Universal Credit for the costs. If they are able to take up employment this will reduce, depending on levels of earnings.

UK Resettlement Scheme in Kent

The UKRS will operate under a similar model as the former Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme (which Kent participated in from 2015 – 2021). KCC will co-ordinate and commission a service in partnership with those districts that wish to take part. Most of the districts have opted to use the KCC scheme to provide the support to the families settling in their area, using commissioned providers (Clarion Housing Group, Migrant Help and Rethink). However, Ashford Borough Council and Canterbury City Council have opted to provide the support themselves, using their own staff. In both cases, however, the councils are working closely with KCC to provide all the services and support that is required.

Support to communicate with the families

The resettlement support providers will accompany the families to pre-admission meetings and other meetings where necessary. When this is needed the services of an interpreter will be provided for the initial meetings.

Education funding for school age children

Funding has been made available to compensate for the fact that school funding is operated as a lagged system, based on the pupil count recorded in the preceding October Census.

The funding will be allocated to the LA School or Academy at the rate of £375 per month.

The funding will be allocated for a maximum of 12 months from the admission date or until the normal funding reflects the additional child, whichever is soonest.

If there are likely to be costs incurred that are greater than the funding allocated, there is a possibility that additional funds may be claimed from the Home Office. The Home Office will consider these requests on a case-by-case basis. KCC has agreed the following procedure for claiming the extra funding:

1. As soon as a school identifies the need for some extra funding they should contact Katherine Barry on 03000 410511. Email: katherine.barry@kent.gov.uk
2. Katherine will then contact the designated officer in the Home Office to discuss whether the particular item is something that they would consider funding – i.e. an agreement in principle.
3. Katherine will then contact the school to either confirm they can go ahead or explain their request is unlikely to be accepted.

4. KCC Finance then processes the additional claim.

English as an Additional Language (EAL) Funding

Three years funding is available for learners whose first language is not English. This kicks in at the start of the financial year following the pupil's inclusion on the school census. The EAL funding rates for 2021-22 are:

- Secondary - £1,485 per year
- Primary - £550 per year

Funding is triggered when a child is registered as EAL in the October Census. This happens when their *language code is given as a language other than English*. For the first 3 years after an EAL child is allocated with their UPN number, this child is eligible to funding. The funding follows the child. Funding is available for children in Year 1 to 11. If a child is entered as EAL in Reception, then the funding will start in the April of Year 1 and continue for 3 years.

Equality Diversity Inclusion Team

The Equality Diversity Inclusion Team supports schools to comply with their Safeguarding duties as well as those covered under the Equality Act and Teachers Standards. The Team aim to ensure that pupils with protected characteristics, those who are perceived as being vulnerable or who are from disadvantaged backgrounds thrive, achieve and realise their full potential. This includes pupils from minority ethnic groups, those with English as an additional language and those from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities.

EDIT is a traded service working within The Education People. Examples of the bespoke support on offer includes:

- Consultations with SMT regarding equality, diversity and inclusion
- EAL pedagogy training for Teachers/TAs
- Pupil observation and assessments
- Academic Literacy for advanced EAL learners
- Strategies to remove barriers to learning for GRT/EAL pupils
- Modelling and sharing strategies to ensure increased access to the curriculum
- Supporting schools to meet the needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender pupils and combat bullying.

The EDIT Core support package offers 18 hours of support that will be tailored to your schools needs and can include any of the above-mentioned activities. You will also be entitled to:

- Priority places at our network and update meetings
- Unlimited phone and email advice
- Full access to the resource library
- Discounted prices on some additional products

The price for the core package is £1647.12, or £137.25 per month rolling DD agreement, or 165 credits.

Three additional days can be bought at the reduced price of £1317.72 (£109.81 per month DD) or 132 credits.

The service also offers bespoke work. This can be purchased for: Half day = £300 (30 credits), Full Day = £600 (60 credits)

Further information, advice and support is available from:
Gillie Heath Gillie.Heath@theeducationpeople.org 03000 417 093

Support from Educational Psychology

All of the families coming to the UK under this scheme will have spent significant periods displaced from their home. Many have experienced traumatic events associated with conflict or instability in the country of origin. Relevant information of this sort will be shared with the school.

If this is thought to be appropriate, extra help in assessing and dealing with the impact of the above events and the fact that the children are in a completely new (in some ways alien) environment can be provided by the Kent Educational Psychology Service (KEPS) within KCC. Please discuss this with the Resettlement Support Provider.

Free access to advice on trauma reactions and care is available to schools by phoning 03000 410100. Duty Crisis Support co-ordinators who respond (who are all qualified Educational Psychologists) can speak to a receiving school about trauma reactions commonly seen in children and provide consultation advice on the telephone about support that school might provide. Supporting information and advice can be sent by e-mail.

In addition, schools can commission from KEPS a range of psychological support including group-based CBA approaches for trauma, Video Interaction Guidance or other interventions aimed at reducing anxiety or stress reactions. The school could also commission additional EP consultations with staff who are supporting the children in school. For further details contact: educational.psychology@kent.gov.uk

Further information

If you feel further information on the scheme is required in this briefing or would like to discuss any of its contents, please contact:

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