



Hampshire
County Council

Children Seeking Asylum

Presentation for Corporate Parenting Board
5 July 2023

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National Transfer Scheme (NTS)

- Home Office confirm 45,000 people illegally entered the UK in 2022. Number predicted to rise to 80,000 in coming year
- Most arrivals are via small boats
- Top 5 Countries are Afghanistan, Sudan, Albania, Iraq, and Vietnam
- Approximately 5,500 children - 94% are males aged 16/17yrs old

- Local Authority to take 0.1% - Hampshire's mandated number 285. Currently 235 children seeking asylum, with an additional 386 care leavers
- HCC notified of small boat arrivals and given 5 days to place. Once placed, children become 'Looked After' under Section 20 Children Act 1989
- HCC receives £143 per child per night by way of contribution for costs of placements. Current placements costs between 30-62k pa
- Children arriving spontaneously – local response taken and children are age assessed and made 'Looked After' – HCC receives £114 per night

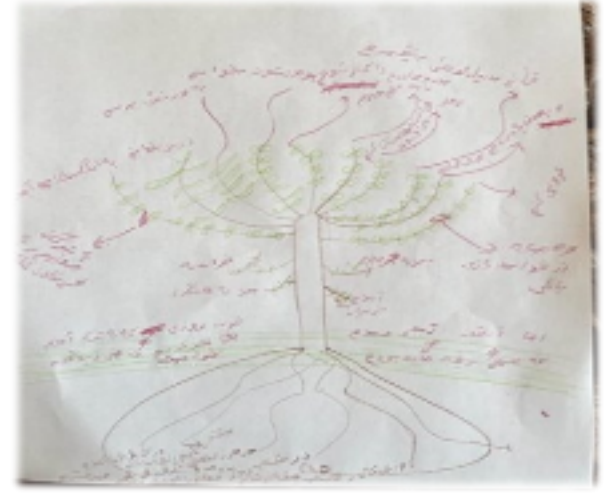
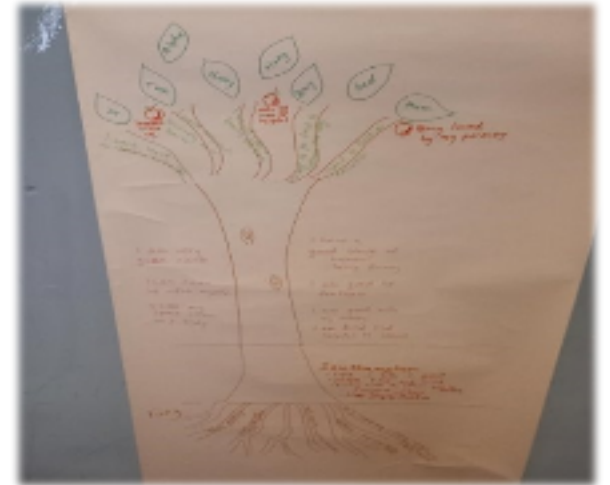
Specialist Refugee Teams

- Teams will include 7 Social Workers, 2 Family Practitioners, 6 Care Leaving Personal Assistants, and Admin staff
- Hampshire currently cares for 235 children, 160 of these are in Refugee Teams – once fully staffed the remainder will transfer in, taking pressure off the Children in Care teams
- Experienced worker with knowledge of the legislative immigration framework
- Work closely with Willow Team to complete trafficking and age assessments, and explore risks around exploitation
- Work closely with Red Cross to locate and make contact with birth families
- Therapeutic approach used in recognition of the trauma children have gone through



Participation

- Vietnamese children enjoying a recent participation event at Eastleigh Football club
- Lunch after provided an opportunity to discuss their collective journey to the UK and gain a greater understanding of the specific needs of this cohort of children
- Children encouraged to be part of the Care Council



Challenges

- Shortage of foster placements – negative media can cause potential carers to forget that they are just children
- Approximately 60% of placements are out of county – increased risk of exploitation
- Currently a gap in formal education provisions for children aged 17 and who are between school and college
- Supporting children seeking asylum to integrate into the community
- Increased risk of exploitation

HCC Response

- Dedicated team working with foster carers to dispel myths around caring for children seeking asylum. Drive to bring placements back to Hampshire and out of London
[Unaccompanied Asylum-seeking Child | Health and social care | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)
- Holding regular participation events so that the children can meet one another
- Working with the virtual school to look at bespoke alternative learning programmes, and connecting with partner agencies to provide ESL courses
- Independent Reviewing Officers with specialist knowledge of working with unaccompanied children

Questions