# People Seeking Asylum, Refugees and People Refused Asylum

JSNA Profile

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# What we are doing and assets and services we have in place

**Health**

Nottingham has a variety of specialised health services which recognises the diverse range of needs experienced by this population.

A key aspect of Nottingham's approach to providing healthcare is the Primary Care local enhanced service which operates across Nottinghamshire. The majority of GP practices are registered, and the service aims to complete enhanced health checks with all new people seeking asylum coming into the area. GP practices receive £150 per new health check undertaken and the enhanced health check pro forma covers essential health needs including communicable diseases, oral health and mental health. While the majority of Nottingham practices are signed up to the LES evidence shows the vast majority of people seeking asylum are registered with a small number of practices. The current aim for completing health checks is 6 months.

Other key services include the specialist midwifery and specialised 0-19 services who work directly with pregnant asylum-seeking families and families with children. These services are also the main contributors to a multi-agency group which reviews complex cases.

Nottingham City Council currently funds a small service called Into the Mainstream to improve access to healthcare services and address barriers. The service primarily aims to support GP registration, but also provides support to fill out forms and access other services such as mental health support and oral health care. This service is currently funded through a grant arrangement, the service currently has one staff member and a service manager and has not been modified since around 2011.

**Housing**

For people seeking asylum, housing is generally provided through the Home Office contract holder, SERCO who procure properties in Nottingham in line with government targets as well as managing the larger accommodation sites that operate in Nottingham.

For people granted asylum who have received refugee status, they are able to access work and benefits and can make their own arrangements around housing. However, it is known that this is challenging for many people when they initially receive their decisions. In Nottingham many people need to seek support from Housing Solutions who provide Nottingham's statutory homelessness functions. Housing Solutions currently recruit a specialist post to work with people seeking asylum and refugees who approach the local authority for assistance. There are currently two services that receive funding through Rough Sleeper Initiative funding in order to accommodate people with refugee status.

For people refused asylum and without an active benefit claim, they have no eligibility to receive housing support, in Nottingham Notts Arimathea Trust and HOST Nottingham run a creative models to try and provide emergency accommodation to this group, however there is extremely limited capacity for the number of people that can be supported. Emmanuel House also manages a Night Shelter during winter months which can accept people with refugee status and people refused asylum. However, for people refused asylum sourcing long term accommodation options is extremely challenging.

For UASC in local authority and care leavers Nottingham's children's services will source accommodation often in semi-independent living provision for young people aged 15 and over.

**Nottingham Community and Voluntary Sector**

Nottingham has an active and experienced CVS sector that provides support to people seeking asylum, refugees and people refused asylum across a wide variety of projects. Nottingham's VCS sector has also provided support to residents of other Local Authorities, placed on the outskirts of Nottingham who have travelled into the city for support.

Nottingham City Council does provide funding to many VCS projects including work around Resettlement, Independent Living Support and ESOL provision. Other VCS organisations receive small amounts of grant funding to support activity with these populations. For 24/25, Nottingham City council funding for the VCS will come from the Home Office dispersal support grant which provides funding for every person in supported home office bed in every Local Authority. This funding for Local Authorities is ring fenced to provide support to this population. There is no current guarantee that this Home Office funding will be renewed.

While some funding is available to VCS organisations the majority of funding for activities is raised through fund raising revenue and through applications for other small national grants.

**Training and Resources**

Through many years of supporting this population, some professionals in Nottingham have developed expert level knowledge of the needs of this population and support arrangements that should be in place. There is evidence that high quality training is arranged and delivered to health professionals working with children and adults in Nottingham, on areas such as eligibility, health needs and cultural competency. However, there is no general training offer and this training is generally dependent on unique offers from the experienced professionals in Nottingham rather than as routine training that could be rolled out on a wider basis.

For other professionals working in Housing and the Voluntary sector there is no general offer of local training or resources.