

Dear

Thank you for your request for information in relation to assessments of, and the provision of support to, families with No Recourse to Public Funds ("NRPF") seeking access to support under section 17 of the Children Act 1989.

I am now able to provide the following information in response to your questions:

Contact details

1. Does your local authority have a separate team dealing with requests for support under section 17 Children Act 1989, for example an 'NRPF team'
 - a. No. However, we have an No Recourse to Public Fund Lead Professional and Senior Social Work Practice Consultant who offer oversight, guidance and support on all NRPF cases.
2. If yes, please provide contact details for this team (telephone and email)
 - a. N/A
3. If no, please confirm where referrals for such support should be directed to and the contact details (telephone and email)
 - a. All referrals to Nottinghamshire Social Care in relation to child protection, safeguarding or support should be made via our Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). Professionals can contact on 0300 500 80 90 or emailing mash.safeguarding@secure.notts.gov.uk or general public can refer on 0300 500 80 80 or by following the details <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/care/childrens-social-care/nottinghamshire-children-and-families-alliance/pathway-to-provision/multi-agency-safeguarding-hub-mash>
4. Please also provide contact details for the relevant legal team supporting children's services or dedicated NRPF team
 - a. Nottinghamshire County Council have a Legal Department who would support Children's Services. They can be contacted by emailing the Duty Solicitor at duty.solicitor@nottscc.gov.uk

Policies

5. Do you have any guidance or policy documents or other such written material in respect of undertaking assessments and providing support pursuant to section 17 of the Children Act 1989 to families with no recourse to public funds (including documents specific to this issue, or of more general application but covering this issue)?
 - a. Yes, there has been a NRPF Policy Procedure and Guidance document in Nottinghamshire since 2014.
6. If yes, please provide us with a copy
 - a. https://nottinghamshirechildcare.proceduresonline.com/pdfs/no_recourse_to_public_funds.pdf

Subsistence

7. Do you pay a set rate of financial subsistence to families with no recourse to public funds?
 - a. Nottinghamshire assess NRPF families that are being supported under the NRPF PPG, so that they will receive household income equivalent to the basic rate of

benefits (as what they would receive if they were entitled to claim basic benefits in the UK)

8. If yes, what is paid?
 - a. As above
9. How has that figure been reached? E.g. is it by reference to Child Benefit rates, asylum support (section 4 or section 95 rates)?
 - a. It is currently matched with the benefit rates identified by the Department of Work and Pensions depending on the families' circumstances.
10. When was this level set?
 - a. This was decided within the original NRPF Policy, Procedure and Guidance in 2014 and is regularly reviewed
11. Who took this decision?
 - a. All Policy, Procedure and Guidance is agreed at Nottinghamshire Social Care's Divisional Leadership Team (DLT)
12. Please provide copies of any reports, minutes, decision documents detailing the setting of this rate.
 - a. This is identified within the NRPF Policy, Procedure and Guidance
13. If you do not pay a set rate of financial subsistence to families with no recourse to public funds,
14. do you have any guidelines relating to rates of financial support?
 - a. N/A
15. If yes, please provide a copy.
 - a. N/A

Statistical information

16. How many referrals for section 17 support for families with NRPF were received in 2018? Please take 'referrals' to include both self-presentations and referrals from other agencies or organisations.
 - a. Full data on NRPF status is not held within the MASH as a separate issue for the reasons for referral, as the primary reason for referral is usually due to housing or low income (as a result of their NRPF status). If there is a referral with child protection concerns then these would override the family's NRPF status in the first instance. However, at the point of referral to the MASH, if the thresholds for a s17 Child and Family Assessment are met in accordance with the Pathway to Provision then an assessment would be completed and once completed, then the NRPF status is identified.
17. How many assessments were undertaken by the NRPF team in 2018?
 - a. In 2018, 36 children (18 families) had s17 Child and Family Assessments in relation to No Recourse to Public Funds
18. In how many of these cases was accommodation and/or subsistence support given?
 - a. From the 18 families that received a s17 Child and Family Assessment, 16 families received initial or continuing financial support by Nottinghamshire Social Care. The 2 families that were not issued financial support were due to one family already having recourse to public funds (so were not identified as being NRPF), and the other family did not require financial support as they were an EU Citizen and were receiving support from family / had employment.

I hope that you find this information to be helpful, however if you are unhappy with the way in which your request has been handled, then please email us at foi@nottsc.gov.uk quoting the reference NCC-038276-19 and we will be happy to review your request

With kind regards

Complaints, Information and Mediation Officer
Nottinghamshire County Council