

NCC-047798-20 No Recourse to Public Funds ("NRPF")

Dear Requester,

Further to your request for information under the Freedom Of Information Act, please see below.

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'?

Nottinghamshire County Council accepts all referrals around safeguarding and child protection to its Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) which will then identify the threshold for involvement. If there is an assessment required under the guidance of s17 Children Act 1989 then it will be passed to our relevant Assessment Team. Once the Child and Family Assessment is completed, then if there is a need for further support under the guidance of s17 Children Act 1989 then it will either pass to the relevant District Child Protection Team or the Countywide Disability Service. There are no separate teams identified for case such as No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) however we do have an NRPF Lead Manager. If the support for a NRPF Family is solely financial whilst pending a decision from the Home Office then the family is stepped down from Social Worker support and will be linked with a Financial Responsibility Officer within Nottinghamshire's Family Service, who have specialisms within NRPF.

2.If yes, please provide contact details for this team (telephone and email)

The NRPF Lead Manager is Matt Wesson (0115 8041514 / matt.wesson@nottscc.gov.uk)

3.If no, please confirm where referrals for such support should be directed to and the contact details (telephone and email)

N/A

4.Please also provide contact details for the relevant legal team supporting children's services or dedicated NRPF team

There is no dedicated NRPF Legal Service Team. However, Nottinghamshire County Council do contribute to the funding of a Regional Immigration Solicitor through the East Midlands Strategic Partnership and they can be contacted at: immigration@emcouncils.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)?

Nottinghamshire County Council has its own NRPF Policy Procedure and Guidance which is reviewed yearly and updated accordingly by the NRPF Lead Manager.

6.If yes, please provide us with a copy.

https://nottinghamshirechildcare.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_no_recourse.html

Subsistence:

7.Do you pay a set rate of financial subsistence to families with no recourse to public funds?

Yes - Following the completion of a Child and Family Assessment a NRPF family will be temporarily supported (if required) with financial subsistence at the same level as Universal Credit. Once this Child and Family Assessment has been completed and if a Human Rights Assessment is required, then if the conclusion of the Human Rights Assessment is that support from Nottinghamshire County

Council is required then payments would continue at the same level as Universal Credit and this is reviewed regularly.

If you answered yes in response to Q7 please consider questions 8-14, but ignore questions 15-16. If you answered no, please ignore questions 8-14 and proceed to question 15.

8.If yes, what is paid?

General income to match that of Universal Credit.

Rental/Accommodation payments to either match Local Housing Allowance or to ensure that the family's needs are met via private rented accommodation (with the Local Authority acting as Guarantor for 6 months Shorthold Tenancy) and exemption from the Right to Rent.

Other considerations of financial support are identified within the NRPF PPG.

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)?

Identified good practice to match those payments set by the Government as being minimum standards and so matched Universal Credit.

10.When was this level set?

This has always been the policy within Nottinghamshire County Council since the first NRPF PPG in 2014.

11.Who took this decision?

Divisional Leadership Team for Nottinghamshire Children's Social Care following advice and discussion from the NRPF Lead Manager and NRPF Network.

12.Please provide copies of any reports, minutes, decision documents detailing the setting of this rate.

These are not available for public release, but this rate setting is identified within the NRPF PPG.

13.If you do not pay a set rate of financial subsistence to families with no recourse to public funds, do you have any guidelines relating to rates of financial support?

N/A

14.If yes, please provide a copy.

N/A

15.If you do not pay a set rate of financial subsistence to families with no recourse to public funds, in the months April to September 2020, how many families with NRPF were receiving regular financial subsistence support under section 17 (CA 1989) from your local authority?

N/A

16.Please specify how much financial support each family received per week (or fortnight if subsistence is paid fortnightly rather than weekly) as regular subsistence in each of the months April, May, June, July, August and September 2020. Please provide a breakdown for each of these months and when doing so please provide the following information:

N/A

a.Specify the composition of the household (i.e. whether it is a two or single-parent household and how many children there are)

N/A

b.identify whether the household has any children under 1-year-old and, if so, how many
N/A

c. identify whether the household has any children between 1 and 3 years old and, if so, how many;
N/A

d.identify whether the household has any children between 4 and 17 years old and, if so, how many
N/A

e.identify whether any of the members of the household were pregnant
N/A

f.identify whether the household ever received any discretionary payments for individual items from the Council and, if so, how much;
N/A

g.identify whether the household ever received additional funds for travel costs, and if so, how much.
N/A

We look forward to receiving your response within 20 working days as per the FOIA.

Yours faithfully,

We trust this now resolves your enquiry. Where we have not been able to provide details we expect that this information is not held by Nottinghamshire county Council at this time.

We suggest all requesters search under our publication scheme in advance of requesting information under the freedom of information act.

Nottinghamshire County Council regularly publishes previous FOIR, s and answers on its website, under Disclosure logs. (see link) <http://site.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/thecouncil/democracy/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log/>

You can use the search facility using keywords. i.e. care / home etc.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to the Team Manager, Complaints and Information Team, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP or email complaints@nottsccl.gov.uk .

Kind Regards

Complaints and Information Team

Nottinghamshire County Council

County Hall