

## **Frequently Asked Questions: Allocation of £21m funding to build capacity to care for UASC – announced 16 January 2018**

### **Any additional money for local authority Childrens' Social Care and support for UASC is always welcome, but what is the £21.3m intended for?**

This is funding to help local authorities to develop their capacity to care for UASC and UAS care leavers – both those with large numbers of UASC and/or UASC care leavers and those that are volunteering to take responsibility for the care of UASC who arrived elsewhere in the country.

### **What does 'develop their capacity' actually mean?**

Capacity building initiatives could include training staff in the particular needs of this group of children and young people, including enhancing age assessment skills, creating additional supported lodging placements, recruiting and training more foster carers to build up in house capacity, supporting entry into education or providing leaving care support for former UASC amongst others. All of these initiatives could help authorities step up their commitment to care for these children in the future.

### **How will local authorities know about the funding?**

Ministers from Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Home Office and Department for Education have written to local authorities to draw their attention to the funding and its intended purpose. The letters also encourage councils to look to work together sub regionally or regionally to make the most from this additional money.

### **Not all the letters are the same?**

That's right. The letters are tailored depending on the number of UASC they care for - whether they are at, or near, their 0.07% threshold, have taken children through the NTS, or have UASC in their care but have not volunteered to be part of the NTS.

### **Will authorities be required to report back on how they spend the money?**

We are keen to learn about how the funding has been used, but it is not a requirement. We hope that this, in addition to an understanding of the impact of the £8.9m made available for individual projects to build capacity to care for UASC funded by the Controlling Migration Fund, will help all local authorities caring for UASC and care leavers and shape future policy.

### **Is the additional £21.3m UASC funding a one-off payment (i.e. it won't continue to be paid in future years)?**

Yes that's correct. It is a one-off contribution to building capacity paid in 2017-18.

### **When and how will the additional funding be received by local authorities?**

Now that the final allocations are confirmed the payment will be made by s31 grant to the local authorities within this financial year (2017-18).

### **How have the allocations been determined?**

The allocation is based on the latest Home Office data. . We applied the following criteria against that data to reflect UASC and UAS care leaver populations.

A: Qualifying authorities: all LAs that meet at least one of the following criteria:

1. Having taken at least one UASC through the National Transfer Scheme, and the child remains in their care.
2. Have more than 10 UASC in their care and/or a UASC load of 50% or more of their 0.07% threshold

B: All LAs that meet at least one of the following criteria:

1. Having 10 or more UASC care leavers age 18-24.
2. UASC care leavers make up more than 0.7% of proportion of the total population aged 18-24 years. (ONS mid 2016 data)

These have been weighted and combined to produce the allocation. There is a more comprehensive explanation of the formula attached.

### **Why is data from July and September used? This does not reflect what is happening in my authority now.**

This is the most recent data available on the load of UASC in each authority. We have reflected NTS transfers up until December in our calculations. The data has limitations and reflects the situation at a point in time. It is important to note that this data set does not reflect the full range of migration impacts on local areas such as resettled populations and asylum dispersal.

### **Will further funding from MHCLG be made available?**

There are no plans at this stage.

### **What about the Controlling Migration Fund (CMF)?**

The Fund is paused, the last wave of proposals were taken on 3 November 2017. We expect arrangements for future years to be announced in the summer.

### **Is this money in addition to proposals funded from the CMF?**

Yes – some authorities have submitted bids to the CMF and this was not a factor in the allocation of the additional funding. There will be some authorities who receive funding as agreed for their proposal to the CMF, in addition to this allocation.

**I can see this is well meant but it doesn't come close to meeting the additional need for funding my authority has, to meet the needs of the UASC in our care.**

This funding is not intended to top up the tariff paid by the Home Office. The funding arrangements for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children are currently being reviewed by the Home Office. We are grateful for the support that local authorities have provided in response to the call for evidence and via the review working group. The Home Office will publish the results of the consultation in due course.