**Support for those with NRPF and the EU settlement scheme – practice exchange pre-read 31/03/21**

The term ‘No Recourse to Public Funds’ encompasses wide range of personal circumstances: failed asylum seekers, EU nationals without settled status or right to reside (and therefore unable to access benefits & statutory homelessness assistance), undocumented migrants, those with leave to remain with a NRPF condition attached, those with leave to remain but a lack of documents to evidence this. **This can make it a challenge to offer advice and assistance,** as we’ve seen with the recent case with [Brighton Council](https://www.brightonandhovenews.org/2021/03/12/brighton-rough-sleeper-wins-right-to-be-housed/).

**EU Settlement Scheme**

While applying to the EU Settlement Scheme is a relatively simple process in comparison to most immigration applications, people experiencing homelessness still face multiple barriers to successfully applying. Many of these challenges have been exacerbated by the pandemic. **As the June deadline approaches**, we are keen to understand what further safeguards are needed to ensure that people experiencing homelessness who are eligible for the EUSS can successfully apply to the scheme and secure their status in the UK.

As of 28th February 2021, 5.18 million applications have been received across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Settled** | **Pre-settled** | **Refused** | **Withdrawn or Void** | **Invalid** |
| 53% | 44% | 0.9% | 1% | 1% |
| 2,553,900 | 2,099,200 | 45,500 | 55,300 | 54,100 |

The Home Office have specifically funded organisations to provide support to vulnerable citizens applying for EUSS. The current list of organisations can be found [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-community-support-for-vulnerable-citizens/list-of-organisations).

**NRPF Customers**

Improving our service effectiveness for NRPF customers has been a challenge for many LAs, the balance of cost and following legislative guidelines alongside the moral concerns. Everyone In gave LAs the opportunity to accommodate despite NRPF. **How do we now continue to manage this cohort successfully?** With variable numbers in different areas and varying levels of service pressure, exploration of alternative solutions is needed in order to provide a suitable service.

**Deportations**

More recently the Home Office has been under the public eye following recent announcement of their plan to refuse or cancel’s someone’s immigration leave if they were rough sleeping. This has led to public responses from [some local authorities](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/dec/07/council-refusing-help-home-office-deport-rough-sleepers-homeless) on data sharing with the Home Office.

**Good Practice in this area**

**Migrant Employment and Accommodation Service – Croydon Council & Crisis Skylight Croydon**

The MEAS project provides accommodation and intensive support for EEA nationals who are rough sleeping, or at risk of rough sleeping. Individuals are provided with 12 weeks in temporary accommodation whilst Crisis provide intensive support to work-ready clients to secure employment and move-on accommodation in the private rented sector. The flexibility to extend the initial 12 weeks accommodation for additional few weeks has also helped to ensure people have been able to successfully secure employment and move on in to settled accommodation.

The project began in October 2018 as a 6-month pilot and has since been extended in recognition of the success.

**Southwark Council & Southwark Law Centre’s Partnership (funded until March 2021)**

Southwark Council eliminated rough sleeping in April 2020 and have been able to keep rough sleeping to single figures. Following Everyone In, the council accommodated people with unclear immigration status, They recognised a need for advice and support to be able to identify housing and move-on options for these individuals and this resulted in their partnership with Southwark Law Centre. 72+ people who are NRPF who have been accommodated.

The project costings include:

* Approximately £14,000 per quarter for Southwark Law Centre Partnership
* Average £1,425 per month per NRPF rough sleeper for accommodation & food cost

**Additional resources:**

NRPF Network Factsheet: Guidance for local authorities - [Supporting European Economic Area (EEA) nationals who are destitute or at risk of homelessness](https://www.nrpfnetwork.org.uk/-/media/microsites/nrpf/documents/guidance/factsheet-eu-settlement-scheme.pdf?la=en&hash=4B47BC7030DB7A459877902127FDAB93E7D9DE84) - 13 page document

Shelter webpage on [the EUSS](https://england.shelter.org.uk/legal/homelessness_applications/eligibility_eeaeu_nationals/eu_settlement_scheme)

NRPF Network Factsheet: Guidance for local authorities – [Supporting people with no recourse to public funds during the Covid-19 pandemic](https://www.nrpfnetwork.org.uk/-/media/microsites/nrpf/documents/guidance/factsheet-covid-19.pdf?la=en&hash=384C33A8E46B59D93CF1BC02044692025619713F) - 10 page document

**Something to think about before the exchange**

* Do you have clear guidance on supporting someone with EUSS or providing support to those with NRPF?
* Do you support people to apply to EUSS? What’s the process? How complicated / easy is it?
* Has the EUSS affected your services and how? Has it created any barriers or opportunities?
* What changes to EUSS would help your service?
* Do you have any concerns about the approaching deadline?
* Do you have in-house immigration advisors or formal partnerships with immigration advice services / law firms?