

BOROUGH OF SANCTUARY STRATEGY

2023 – 2026

As we embark on this journey outlined in the Borough of Sanctuary strategy, I am filled with immense pride and hope for the future of our community to work together in partnership to make Barnet a place of welcome for all those seeking sanctuary.

In January 2023, this vision became a reality as the motion was passed by the full Council, which was a momentous occasion that underscored our shared commitment to compassion, kindness, and inclusivity.

Barnet has a proud history of welcoming those seeking sanctuary over the years and hoping to build a better life. This achievement did not come without its challenges for our borough. We recognise the complexities and hardships faced by those who have sought sanctuary within our borders fleeing forced displacements. Yet it is precisely these challenges that have fuelled our determination to create a community that embraces diversity and offers unwavering support to all.

Our residents, partners, the voluntary, community and faith sectors have displayed great compassion and kindness, going above and beyond to welcome refugees and asylum seekers into their homes and our community. As we have welcomed those fleeing forced displacement, our borough has been enhanced by the contribution of sanctuary seekers and it is truly a privilege to share our home with them.

Our aspiration is for this borough to be a beacon of compassion where every resident, regardless of their background or origin, feels a sense of belonging. This strategy is a testament to our belief in the power of community, empathy and collaboration. It calls upon all of us, from the Council to voluntary organisations to residents, to stand together in solidarity, understanding and kindness and weave a tapestry that celebrates the richness of our diverse community. Through this strategy we reaffirm our commitment to the values of equity, inclusion and social justice.

I extend my deepest gratitude to everyone who has contributed to this vision and I am excited about the positive impact we will undoubtedly achieve through this Borough of Sanctuary Strategy.

Cllr Zahra Beg

Cabinet Member for Equalities, Voluntary & Community Sector



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Introduction

Our Plan for Barnet 2023-2026 sets out our vision to be a council that cares for "Our People, Our Places, and the Planet" along with a firm commitment to Tackling Inequalities. We want everyone in Barnet to have a good quality of life with equitable access to education, employment, housing, social connection, and community. The Barnet Safer Communities Safety Strategy aims to increase the engagement with community-based groups at a neighbourhood level, building a resilient network of voluntary and community organisations that have increased awareness of preventing crime and securing access to justice for those affected by hate crime. Our vision is a thriving Barnet where people from different economic and social backgrounds, ethnicities, faiths, sexual orientations and generations can live, work, learn and socialise together. This means everyone recognising their shared rights and responsibilities for making a valuable contribution to a fairer and more equitable Barnet. We want Barnet to be a place where everyone can get along and fully participate in the opportunities available to them, regardless of whether they are in the borough for a few months or are placing their roots down for the long-term future.

We want to go beyond just providing shelter to those seeking safety, to providing sanctuary. By sanctuary, we mean supporting people with the opportunities, interactions and skills to rebuild their own lives and actively participate in civic life. The Council and partners are committed to supporting people with the tools to thrive as valued members of Barnet's communities, rather than just to survive. People who have arrived in Barnet seeking safety (we use the term 'people seeking sanctuary'), are most often migrants and refugees, but also can include those who have experienced forced migration through modern slavery and other traumatic circumstances.

As communities rapidly change and inequalities deepen, the responsibility to support social integration is a matter for everyone, as it involves and benefits us all. The social integration of new and emerging communities is an important element of community cohesion. It is everybody's responsibility to support the rights, needs and social integration of people seeking sanctuary from day one. In Barnet, we want people in the borough seeking sanctuary to be able to access well-coordinated services, regardless of the circumstances that brought them to Barnet.

Multiple agents are heavily involved in this work including the voluntary and third sector, housing providers and dedicated refugee and asylum service specialists, amongst which the Council is one partner. All work with our partners towards a Borough of Sanctuary builds strength in relationships, participation, and equality (the three core themes of social integration from Mayor of London's Social Integration Strategy 2018), through the lens of the experiences of people seeking sanctuary in Barnet.

In Barnet we place value in the things that bind people and places together, which is relevant to everything from community development, education and life-long learning, health and wellbeing, culture and leisure, to local economies and the built environment. This strategy sets out a strengthened partnership framework to support people seeking sanctuary across all areas. It will improve the co-ordination for the delivery of

services aimed at supporting our sanctuary-seekers. It will mean that there is dedicated commitment to keep the needs of our sanctuary-seekers at the centre of all work that that affects them, and that we will maintain a focus on improving their experiences of living in this borough.

This strategy will support building the conditions for cohesion in the community by supporting new communities who are most at risk of harm, providing environments where people of different backgrounds can build positive relationships, and by creating a sense of belonging to those who make the borough their home.

Sanctuary in Barnet

In January 2023, Barnet Council passed a motion to become a Borough of Sanctuary. This motion highlighted the work that the council and partners have contributed to welcoming those seeking sanctuary and committed the council to working alongside City of Sanctuary UK to encourage inclusivity, solidarity, and compassion to people from a forced displacement background. Barnet Council is now an active member of the City of Sanctuary Local Authority Network and is working alongside partners to achieve Borough of Sanctuary status.

Barnet has a long history of providing sanctuary to those fleeing persecution and welcoming those who have settled from a diverse range of backgrounds. Barnet today is a diverse borough of thriving communities that include a range of settled migrant populations, with notable representation from Romanian, Iranian, Indian, and Chinese backgrounds among others. This diversity strengthens our borough and its rich cultural identity. A substantial majority of Barnet residents say their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together. Over a number of years, the council has worked in partnership with statutory partners and the voluntary, community and faith sector to support those in Barnet seeking refuge. This has included the delivery of a range of services including education, housing and health care.

In 2017, Barnet Council made a public commitment to resettle 50 Syrians through the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme and by 2020, the council had met this commitment. Throughout the duration of the scheme, the local authority provided support with securing housing, school places and employment along with significant support from the voluntary sector. Following the completion of this scheme, in January 2023 the council made a commitment to utilise the funding received to cover the cost of citizenship for those resettled in Barnet on this scheme. This initiative continues to run as families become eligible to make an application for citizenship. Following the success of this scheme, the council made a further commitment to resettle 50 Afghans through the Afghan Resettlement Scheme and in 2023 this pledge was exceeded. Barnet Homes continues to support those on the Afghan Resettlement Scheme to settle in Barnet.

The council has also effectively overseen the resettlement of Ukrainians through the Homes for Ukraine Scheme. Barnet's dedicated Homes for Ukraine Team has, to date, resettled the highest number of Ukrainians of any London Borough and has had great success in delivering this scheme. This has included delivering a range of initiatives to support Ukrainians with housing, employment, education, and mental health support. It also includes celebrating important cultural events such as Ukrainian Independence Day.

Case Study: Eurovision Celebration

In June 2023, the Homes for Ukraine Team, in collaboration with the Artsdepot, hosted a Eurovision 2023 live viewing event in Barnet, specifically tailored for the Ukrainian community. This occasion served as a cultural celebration, which provided an open and welcoming space for Ukrainians to connect and share their experiences. The team described the event as an unforgettable experience that brought the Ukrainian community together, creating a vibrant atmosphere of joy, support, and new connections.

Barnet is home to a large Chinese population which has meant that the borough has seen a high number of individuals on the Hong Kong BN(O) scheme resettled in Barnet. Those on the Hong Kong BN(O) scheme have a range of needs in relation to accessing English language courses, health and life in the UK skills. Barnet Council has worked in partnership with the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to deliver ESOL classes to those on the scheme to promote integration. In addition to this, in January 2023, the council secured £30,000 in grant funding from the Greater London Authority to deliver initiatives to promote the welcome of those on the scheme. This

funding was used to work with a local Chinese health and wellbeing organisation, Meridian Wellbeing, to deliver a range of initiatives over a 6-month period, including mental health support and sporting activities to those on the Hong Kong BN(O) scheme.

Barnet is also home to the largest Jewish population in the UK which means that the emerging conflict between Israel and Hamas is felt acutely and has had an impact in the borough. Although there is no resettlement scheme in relation to this conflict, there are people in Barnet who have been displaced from the region who have required support, this includes 46 Jewish children from being placed in Barnet schools. In response to this, in October 2023, the School's Forum approved an additional £250,000 to support children displaced from Israel and Gaza enrolling in Barnet maintained schools.

Ensuring the safety and wellbeing of children is a key part of the work the local authority carries out on a day-to-day basis and this work extends to refugee and asylum-seeking children. There are a number of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) in the care of the local authority who have complex needs in relation to education, language barriers and mental and physical health. To meet the needs of children who have arrived in Barnet unaccompanied, Family Services have worked to successfully recruit foster carers from a diverse range of backgrounds with similar cultures, languages and religion and provided training and support to foster carers to understand and cater to the needs of UASC in their care. The Family Services UASC team also offer these young people access to a variety of emotional and physical wellbeing drop-in sessions, training courses and staff who are on hand to provide advice in a crisis, advocacy, and emotional support. In addition to this, educational psychologists are providing a free bespoke counselling service within school settings for children who have arrived under difficult circumstances.

To support the education of UASC, the BELS 16+ team provide career guidance, mentoring and support to UASC in relation to further education and training and access to ESOL. There has also been work put in place to provide financial and emotional support to young people wanting to go on to further education either at university or college. A newly established ESOL training course at Onwards and Upwards Centre also provides an additional language course for young people who are awaiting a placement at college or where a college has not yet been identified.

Case Study: ESOL

The Barnet UASC Team, along with our education service, hosted onsite ESOL classes for 12 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and young people between March and June 2023. This special ESOL course offered tailored teaching to the group, providing a high level of support to everyone. It also provided a safe space for these young people to work on their social skills, build informal support networks, and develop a sense of belonging within their peer group.

Since September 2021, Barnet has placed over 3,600 (35% secondary and 65% primary, approx.) mainstream school-aged children from overseas in Barnet schools. In recognition of the challenges faced by schools where migrant children are enrolled after the October school census date, which results in lagged pupil funding allocations, the council has been providing financial support to eligible schools. In November 2021, four Barnet schools with the highest number of children living in designated hotels for asylum seekers were allocated a share of £50,000 from the council's Covid grant. In January 2022, a further £1m was set aside from the underspend of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) to support schools that enrolled children from the asylum hotels and those who had arrived under the Hong Kong BNO Scheme. The council is committed to ensuring that no children slip through the net and that resources are targeted to the most vulnerable children and families. This has included the development of bespoke alternative educational programmes, as well as provision of £5,000 for Oyster Cards for asylum hotel guests who were struggling to meet the costs of home-to-school travel.

Refugees and asylum seekers have specific health needs that can differ from that of the native population. In September 2022, the Barnet Health and Wellbeing Board published a Migrant Health Needs Assessment. This report found differences in both the wider determinants (such as housing, education, and employment) and health outcomes of forced and undocumented migrants as compared to those born in the UK. Forced and undocumented migrants tend to have relatively worse health and health outcomes than the UK born population which declines over time and this decline in health is a result of a variety of interlinking issues, most notably poor work and living conditions, poverty, social isolation, poor access and knowledge of health care systems and discrimination. To address some of these issues, Barnet Council appointed a Health Ambassador for asylum seekers. This role is focused on immunisation, mental health and wellbeing and access to healthcare as well as wider wellbeing support such as safeguarding and cooking classes.

Case Study: Public Health & BreadnButter

In 2023, BreadnButter, New Citizens Gateway, and Barnet Public Health successfully came together to host community cooking classes for residents in Home Office accommodation. A series of classes over a course of 8 weeks were held, running around 2 hours each for 15 different residents. Residents from different communities provided recipes for traditional dishes to cook together in the sessions. BreadnButter sourced all ingredients and equipment required. This included Kurdish, Albanian, Persian and Eritrean dishes.

The context we work in

Refugee Resettlement

Since 2017, there have been 5 schemes put in place to support the resettlement of refugees in the UK, these are the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme, The Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme, the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, the United Kingdom Resettlement Scheme, and the Hong Kong BN(O) visa scheme. These schemes, funded by central government, are in place to support the resettlement of refugees through safe and legal routes. Barnet has overseen the resettlement of over a thousand refugees through these schemes through support with housing, education and employment.

Asylum Seekers

Central government policy to use hotels as contingency accommodation for asylum seekers continues to be a cause of concern in Barnet where there are over 1,500 asylum seekers accommodated across five hotels. There is ongoing uncertainty around the future of the use of hotels, with new policies around hotel maximization, shorter notice to leave hotels and planned closure of hotels across the UK. Where asylum seekers are served a decision whilst in Barnet in Home Office accommodation, this then puts additional housing pressure on the local authority. The council will continue to work closely with the Home Office to raise concerns and to identify areas where we can work together to mitigate the impact.

Increasing levels of deprivation

Despite being a generally affluent borough, Barnet has pockets of stubborn deprivation, high housing costs and a higher than London average of Households without work and those who suffer from long-term illness. In-work poverty is increasing, with more residents who are in work but struggling to meet their essential living costs. 24.3% of Barnet's working age population is economically inactive.

Increasing housing insecurity and homelessness

Nearly 10% of Barnet's households are overcrowded. Costs have risen in the rent sector rapidly with inflation outstripping earnings growth, creating an acute living cost crisis across London. Barnet Homes has seen a rapid increase in the number of people seeking support for homelessness. This is placing additional strain on limited social housing and has seen an increase in the number of households in temporary accommodation. Black residents are more likely to present as homeless than white residents. Asylum seekers granted refugee

status and subsequently leaving Home Office accommodation are particularly vulnerable to housing insecurity and homelessness.

Increasing inequality

The rate of inequality for women (30.9%) is significantly higher than for men (19.2%) and highest for the black and black British community (35.3%). In addition to this, black residents are twice as likely to need to use Adult Social Care services than white residents. More than a third of both working age residents with disabilities, and black residents, are economically inactive.

Increasing pressure on Council's budget

Higher inflation and a growing demand for services, including the growing complexity of need in adult social care, has seen the council predict a £25.8M overspend on the budget for 2023-2024. These pressures are being experienced by every local authority, but we know that people seeking sanctuary are most vulnerable to increasing poverty and inequalities. As funding is limited for supporting them locally, we will work collaboratively with a range of organisations through the Borough of Sanctuary network to maximize the impact of joint efforts.

Rise in xenophobic discourse and tensions

National discourse surrounding the Illegal Migration Bill – or 'Stop the Boats' Bill – has created a febrile environment for those seeking sanctuary, with no safe and legal routes for migrants except from Afghanistan, Ukraine, and Hong Kong. In Barnet, existing communities have welcomed new and emerging communities, but xenophobic discourse has become mainstream in the UK and asylum accommodation provides a focal point for divisive rhetoric. Barnet is committed to being a borough where racism and hate crime is not tolerated and works alongside the police to manage community tensions and build positive relationships between newcomers and receiving communities.

Borough of Sanctuary Network

The voluntary, community and faith sector across Barnet play an integral role in the welcome Barnet has extended to sanctuary seekers. Organisations across the borough have mobilised as pace to meet the immediate needs of new arrivals, such as food and clothing, and have also played an important role in supporting the longer-term integration of sanctuary seekers through social activities. To bring this sector together, Barnet Council, in partnership with Barnet Together, launched the Borough of Sanctuary Network. This network has representation from faith groups, wellbeing organisations, voluntary groups, Barnet Citizens, and health partners. Several organisations represented on the network also form Barnet's local City of Sanctuary Group.

The council is committed to continuing to support and work closely with those represented on the Borough of Sanctuary Network and Barnet's City of Sanctuary Group, along with the wider voluntary sector, to respond to the needs of sanctuary seekers in Barnet. The council will maintain a relationship with these key partners and work with them on a range of initiatives, from making representations to the Home Office to supporting community initiatives and projects.

Case Study: Refugee Week 2023

In June 2023, Barnet Council marked refugee week for the first time. In celebrating the years' theme of compassion, the council amplified the work of partners who work with sanctuary seekers in the borough and held a Refugee Week celebration event. This celebratory event brought together 500 people from a range of backgrounds and communities to share in a variety of different cultural performances and activities.

Two key members of the Network are New Citizens Gateway and the Persian Advice Bureau. These two Barnet-based organisations both work across the borough to support refugees and asylum seekers and both organisations are key partners to the council in delivering our work with sanctuary seekers.

New Citizens Gateway (NCG)

New Citizens Gateway has an allotment where asylum seekers can grow, cook and share food from their home countries. They also provide an NHS approved group counselling service in community languages, yoga sessions and a Women's Group. These and other services NCG provide for asylum seekers and refugees contributed to them winning a national [GSK and Kings Fund Impact award](#) in 2023.

Persian Advice Bureau (PAB)

PAB's staff and leadership deliver immigration and asylum law advice and the organisation was recently awarded a contract to provide Legal Aid representation to asylum seekers. PAB also work extensively in domestic abuse and housing. PAB also regularly arrange day trips and organise outings for asylum families from the hotels, and facilitate their participation in community events and festivals.

The Borough of Sanctuary Network provides a space in which partners can mobilise and co-ordinate their work and share best practice. A key achievement of the network over the last twelve months was the delivery of Barnet's first Refugee Week celebration where members came together to plan and deliver a refugee week celebration centred on the weeks' theme of compassion.

How we work in partnership

In Barnet, our approach is collaborative, ensuring we join forces with partners to provide comprehensive support for refugees and asylum seekers. We strive for inclusivity by using language that embraces diversity, amplifying voices, challenging stereotypes, and avoiding assumptions. We aim to be caring by placing residents, refugees, and asylum seekers at the core of our efforts, caring about their well-being. We demonstrate courage by collaborating with partners and other local authorities to improve existing processes and support the rights of migrants and asylum seekers. Barnet endorses the City of Sanctuary values and aims to integrate these values into all our work.

We uphold these values when collaborating with partners and other local authorities:

- Inclusiveness** We welcome and respect people from all backgrounds, place the highest value on diversity and are committed to equality
- Openness** We are committed to a culture of working collaboratively across the City of Sanctuary networks and in partnership with others
- Participation** We work with people seeking sanctuary and value and recognise the contribution of all. We aspire to ensure people seeking sanctuary are involved in all decision making at all levels and are supported to become leaders in the organisation, networks, and the wider movement.
- Inspiring** We work with enthusiasm and positivity and are determined to surpass what has already been achieved to welcome refugees and people seeking sanctuary, we act as a catalyst for

change by being open to new and innovative ideas and through sharing knowledge gained with others and working in partnership

Integrity We aspire to high standards of honesty and behaviour, and always to act in the interests of people seeking sanctuary.

Case Study: New Citizens Gateway and Persian Advice Bureau

In late 2020, the volume of people accommodated in contingency hotels was concerning, as the needs of the hotel population and the challenges they were facing were largely invisible until the point where they reached crisis. The council felt that there should be specialist outreach workers located in the hotels with the skills and experience required to work with asylum seekers. Barnet is fortunate to have two organisations in the borough qualified to provide this: Barnet Refugee Service and Persian Advice Bureau. It was agreed to use Covid emergency funding to commission both organisations to deliver outreach services direct to asylum seekers in what were then four hotels (two hotels per organisation). Initially, there was resistance from the Home Office's contracted accommodation provider to allowing outreach workers into the hotels. Infection rates were still high, and there were fears about security. The council insisted however, and from February 2021, specialist outreach workers from both organisations have been present in all hotels at least one day a week. The impact of this was immediate. Outreach workers were able to signpost and connect asylum seekers with local services. GP registration rates increased, and parents were able to find school places close to their hotels. Whatever their issues, asylum seekers now had trusted professionals to support them, often in their own language. As well as enabling greater access to services, both outreach organisations offer a range of support to asylum seekers. Both provide on-site English (ESOL) classes, and provide access to a number of positive activities to support wellbeing.

A participatory approach

This strategy was developed in partnership with sanctuary seekers from a wide range of backgrounds and ages in Barnet, who were generous in sharing their experiences with us. Since passing the motion to be a Borough of Sanctuary, we have carried out a series of workshops and have used the feedback of these to inform all parts of this strategy, how we understand sanctuary, defining our values, strategic priorities, and the work that we will continue to deliver.

We asked sanctuary seekers in Barnet what Sanctuary means to them and what it means for Barnet. Key themes that emerged from this engagement included having access to vital services, robust support for mental health and well-being, non-discriminatory environments, and judgment-free spaces.

“Understanding and listening”

“Free from judgement”

“Mental Health counselling and support”

“Equitable, consistent, non-discriminatory”

“Signpost to support and culturally appropriate”

“Safety and protection”

We will continue to engage with our sanctuary seekers to ensure that those involved are part of the longer-term journey to securing Borough of Sanctuary status and can feedback their experiences of navigating support systems.

Strategic Priorities

Engagement with sanctuary seekers and partners who support them shaped our strategic priorities. Participants provided invaluable insight on topics such as employment, education, health, and integration. We learned about more on our sanctuary seeker's views on safety in Barnet, diversity, their appreciation of our green spaces and the need for support with travel costs.

The four key strategic priorities below, developed with partners, will guide ongoing and emerging work within this area:

Strategic	Priority	How will we know we have achieved this?
Inclusivity		We foster a welcoming environment to everyone living in Barnet. All people in Barnet are supported to feel they belong, regardless of the circumstances which brought them to Barnet or how long they have lived here, creating a sanctuary of inclusivity. There are opportunities for relationship building between people living in established communities and people seeking sanctuary.
Community spirit		We promote a culture of celebrating diversity and unity in the community. The diversity of people seeking sanctuary in Barnet is celebrated and the voices of sanctuary seekers are amplified. The council works effectively with partners to collaborate on common cause issues.
Empowerment		We encourage personal growth and wellbeing. Sanctuary seekers are supported to access the resources and services open to them to create the safety net to rebuild their lives, as well as the tools to make a significant contribution to Barnet life. Hate crime and prejudice are challenged and addressed in all forms.
Active listening		We cultivate sanctuary through active listening. Sanctuary seekers are a valuable part of decision-making processes and the council proactively engages with refugees and asylum seekers to understand their needs, concerns, and the challenges they face. The council will listen attentively to the stories, journeys and experiences of individuals seeking sanctuary, creating spaces for them to share their needs, strengths and aspirations.

These four strategic priorities will guide our approach to working with sanctuary seekers across all service areas. They will guide and determine our action plan, which will include clear guidance for officers on what sanctuary entails and how it relates to their specific roles, linking sanctuary work to equalities and promoting good service design and delivery. It will take a considered look at how to coordinate work to address risks of exploitation and modern slavery. To achieve successful delivery of this and measuring success, the council will put in place both internal and external controls to monitor our progress. The council's internal Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Steering Group will play a role in monitoring the delivery of the Borough of Sanctuary strategy and the achievement of Borough of Sanctuary status. The council will also put in place a Borough of Sanctuary Steering Group. This multi-agency steering group will meet on a quarterly basis to monitor the achievement of Borough of Sanctuary status and the delivery of the action plan. As a Borough of Sanctuary, all council services will consider the needs of asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants in their activities.

Appendix A

Throughout this strategy we use the term sanctuary seekers into include all our residents which are seeking sanctuary and have sought sanctuary in the past. There are key differences in these groups, which we acknowledge in service and project delivery.

Terms & Definitions

General Migrant

An individual who leaves their country of origin to reside in another for the purposes of work, study or closer family ties.

Forced Migrant

An individual who has been forced to leave their country of origin due to war, conflict, persecution or natural disaster.

Asylum seeker

An individual who has applied for asylum under the 1951 Refugee Convention on the Status of Refugees on the grounds of fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, political belief or membership of a particular social group.

Refugee

An individual upon whom the status of refugee has been conferred under the 1951 Refugee Convention on the Status of Refugees. This can be obtained either through successful application for asylum or by direct selection via the Gateway Protection Programme or Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Programme. Refugee Status currently means five years leave to remain in the UK. Refugees have the right to work and claim benefits, access to mainstream housing, and the possibility of applying for family reunion.

Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children ("UASC")

A child or young person (0-17 years old) who is seeking asylum in another country and has been separated from their parents or carers. Whilst their claim is processed, they are cared for by a local authority.

Undocumented Migrant

An individual who has entered the UK in a forced or unforced manner but has lost or never obtained a right of residence. This includes general migrants who have overstayed their visa, trafficked persons, irregular entrants, children of undocumented migrants, and refused asylum seekers who are not receiving.

Section 95 Support (NRPF Network, 2022)

Section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 describes that once an asylum seeker has submitted their claim for asylum, support is provided in the form of monetary support and/or accommodation. Since 2015, a flat rate is paid per person per week rather than a tiered payment related to age and dependants. Following a refused claim, asylum support under section 95 is terminated after 28 days in individuals with no dependent children. The current rate is £40.85. However, those who are being provided with full-board hotel accommodation receive a weekly allowance of £8.24.

Section 4 Support (NRPF Network, 2022)

Section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 entitles refused asylum seekers meeting one of a number of conditions (such as inability to leave the country on health grounds or no safe route of return) to receive a payment of £40.85 per person per week received on a pre-paid card which can be used to purchase food, clothing and toiletries. However, those who are being provided with full-board hotel accommodation receive a weekly allowance of £8.24.