

# NRPF Connect data summary, financial year 2020-2021

## Briefing Note, 30 September 2021

### 1. What is NRPF Connect?

NRPF Connect is an immigration status checking, case-prioritisation and case management solution delivered by the [NRPF Network](#) in partnership with the Home Office. The service is used by councils to record details of households with 'no recourse to public funds' (NRPF) that are being provided with accommodation and financial support under social services' legislation.

### 2. What are the headline figures by nation and region?

Nation / Region	Number of local authorities providing data	Annual accommodation and subsistence expenditure (£, millions)	Number of households receiving support as of 31 March 2021	Increase / decrease in supported households over the year (end of Q1 to end of Q4)	Total number of referrals over the year
All local authorities	<b>68</b>	<b>57.000</b>	<b>3200</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>5762</b>
East Midlands	5	2.350	144	15%	405
East of England	4	4.800	223	15%	461
Greater London	30	37.200	1991	6%	3411
North East	3	0.300	24	-14%	13
North West	2	0.900	59	-16%	267
South East	11	5.300	295	8%	331
South West	2	1.600	110	2%	125
West Midlands	6	1.800	140	-11%	451
Yorkshire & Humber	3	1.350	108	-5%	242
Scotland	2	0.580	62	5%	56

Read the full [2020-2021 data report online](#), or see page 3 for further headline figures.

### 3. What does the data demonstrate?

Councils across the UK play an essential role in preventing homelessness and reducing child poverty by providing accommodation and financial support to children and vulnerable adults excluded from mainstream benefits due to their immigration status. However, operating the social services 'safety net' comes at a significant cost to local government.

The most likely outcome once support is engaged is grant of status with recourse to public funds, which accounts for 79% of all family cases closed, reducing to 51% of closures for adults with care and support needs.

#### **4. What support does the Home Office provide over NRPF Connect?**

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The Home Office have built a specialist response around NRPF Connect which greatly assists local authorities in the efficient application of statutory duties. However, an increasing volume of enquiries put pressure on agreed response times; in 2020-2021, 33% of all Home Office responses were outside of the agreed Service Level Agreement (SLA) timescale. The Home Office are undertaking measures to bring responses back within the SLA.

#### **5. What do local authorities using NRPF Connect say?**

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In a [survey](#) conducted by the NRPF Network in February 2021, 99% of local authority respondents said they would recommend using NRPF Connect to other councils or teams. The direct communication link to the Home Office and the ability to have oversight of caseloads and costs were referenced as important elements of an easy-to-use system.

#### **6. What are the recommendations for government?**

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Based on the analysis of the 2020-2021 data from 68 contributing local authorities, the NRPF network has made [recommendations for government](#) summarised as follows:

- **Policy change** – including ending the imposition of the NRPF condition and ensuring that all EU citizens protected under the EU Settlement Scheme have automatic access to means-tested benefits and mainstream homelessness assistance.
- **Funding** – reimburse councils for expenditure and use new burdens assessments to compensate for changes in national policy that increase homelessness.
- **Minimising impacts** – provide policy concessions and more streamlined operational processes including, for example, reinstating legal aid for immigration matters, exempting local authority support from secondary healthcare charging and accelerating routes to benefit / employment when ‘recourse’ is granted.
- **Operation of NRPF Connect** – increase resources to enable more councils to join and benefit from the service, whilst taking action on the long-standing cases that cannot easily be resolved through applications to the Home Office.

## 7. What are the recommendations for local government?

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Enabling a coordinated response to case resolution ensures that valuable safety-net support is provided in the most cost-effective way possible, the [recommendations for local government](#) are summarised as follows:

- **Service planning** – use NRPF Connect to identify and monitor caseloads and consider ‘invest to save’ arguments to boost case-resolution activities, including commissioning immigration advice and investing in specialist staffing responses.
- **Operational** – review reported NRPF Connect data and take remedial action where necessary to improve data quality. Work to expedite transition to mainstream services when recourse has been granted and make use of [NRPF Network resources](#) to inform practice.

## 8. National Headline Data – NRPF Connect data summary 2020-2021

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### Supported households and costs

3200 households with no recourse to public funds were provided with accommodation and financial support by 68 councils at a collective annual cost of £57 million.

The 3200 households comprised of:

- 1636 families, with 2932 dependants, supported by 67 councils at an annual cost of £26.8 million.
- 708 adults with care needs, supported by 43 councils at an annual cost of £12.9 million.
- 856 looked after children and care leavers, supported by 29 councils, at an annual cost of £17.2 million.

### Referrals/ requests for support

- The number of requests or referrals for support (5758) increased by 10% from the previous year, with 30 Greater London boroughs reporting 60% of requests.
- Of the families requesting support, 30% had no current immigration permission and 21% had a form of leave to remain that was subject to the ‘No Recourse to Public Funds’ (NRPF) condition.
- Of the adults requesting support, 29% had no current immigration permission and 28% were EEA nationals or had European residence rights.

### **Time on support**

- Families received support for an average period of 589 days (1.5 years) and adults with care needs received support an average of 911 days (2.5 years).
- For households where the parent or adult was a non-EEA national with no current immigration permission or leave to remain subject to the NRPF condition, 15% of families and 35% of adults with care needs had been supported for over 1000 days.

### **Reasons for case closure/ exiting support**

Of the 1156 family households that had their support withdrawn and case closed:

- 79% exited support following a grant of leave to remain or a change in immigration status that allows access to public funds
- 4% returned to their country of origin or left the UK (3% EEA nationality and 1% non-EEA nationality)

Of the 354 adult households that had their support withdrawn and case closed:

- 51% exited support following a grant of leave to remain or a change in immigration status that allows access to public funds
- 8% returned to their country of origin or left the UK (7% EEA nationality and 1% held non-EEA nationality)

Read the full [2020-2021 data report online](#)