



To: Local Authority Directors  
Adult and Children's Services

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2014

The Home Office is aware of the considerable burden being placed on local authority social service departments in assessing and supporting individuals and families with 'no recourse to public funds' (NRPF).

The NRPF client group supported by local authorities is broad, encompassing, for example, asylum seekers, visa overstayers and European Economic Area Nationals (EEA), and as such present challenges on many different levels. The Home Office and local authorities are working together to better understand trends and to address new areas of concern and increased requests for support from LAs when they arise, in order to resolve cases faster and reduce expenditure where possible.

This letter sets out a summary of the work now being taken by the Home Office to address the concerns that have been raised by local authorities. These include:

### **1. Establishing a central team within the Home Office to deal with NRPF queries**

The Interventions and Sanctions Directorate in Immigration Enforcement will work with local authorities to identify and seek to resolve NRPF cases, where possible, by sharing information, enabling the authorities to make appropriate decisions to deny or remove access to local authority support. Those cases will be referred to the appropriate Home Office units for action, and the outcome will be fed back to each authority using Connect.

### **2. Renewal of the NRPF Connect contract**

NRPF Connect has been developed jointly by local and central government and we will continue to use the NRPF Connect system as a helpful method of working with LAs to resolve cases and securely exchange information.

### **3. Recruiting Home Office Local Partnership Managers**

The Local Partnership Managers (LPMs) will work with LAs to address queries and issues at the local level, including supporting LAs to spot opportunities to streamline status checking and document verification processes; providing guidance and support through training on matters raised by the LA and attending regional forums to enhance cooperation and understanding of immigration matters. We will work collaboratively at the local level to address and escalate any issues of concern impacting LAs as a result of hostile environment initiatives.

#### **4. Setting up joint monitoring arrangements of the NRPF Connect database at an operational and strategic level**

The information provided by NRPF Connect will be used to monitor local authority spending and help identify underlying policy issues that are influencing the numbers of supported cases.

For more information about the work of the interventions and sanctions directorate please contact: [I&SDeferrals@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:I&SDeferrals@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)

For further information in relation to NRPF Connect please see [the NRPF Connect leaflet](#) and [website](#) or contact:

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For further information on the work of the ADCS asylum taskforce please contact:

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I am pleased to have this opportunity to work more closely with you in the future.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Dower', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Sonia Dower

Director, Interventions and Sanctions Directorate

Cc:

NRPF Network

ADCS asylum taskforce