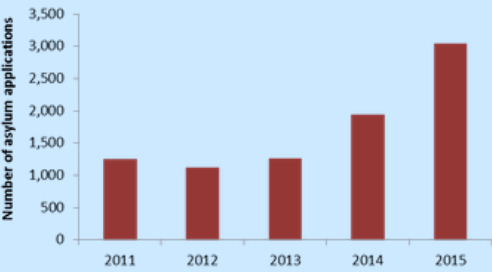


Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)

UASC Definition: UK Visa & Immigration

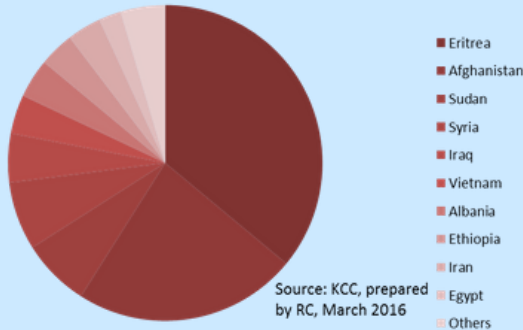
- appears to be under 18
- applying for asylum in his or her own right
- fleeing persecution from their own country
- no adult relative or guardian to turn to in this country

Asylum applications by Unaccompanied Children
Years 2011-2015



Data sourced from Refugee Council, Asylum statistics

Country of Origin of UASC in Kent - Year 2015



Source: KCC, prepared by RC, March 2016

AGE

- 77% 16-17 yrs
- 18.5% 14-15 yrs

Sex

- Over 90% male
- Most female UASC from Eritrea

Phases of the refugee experience

Pre-flight

- Tuberculosis, HIV, Hepatitis B and C, Malaria etc.
- Female Genital Mutilation
- War/Conflict; Torture
- Lack health service provision
- Malnutrition



Flight

- Starvation
- Lack of access to shelter
- Risk of death
- Loss of loved ones through death or separation
- Dangers faced while entering the EU irregularly
- Vulnerability to sexual exploitation & trafficking



Temporary Resettlement

- Poor Hygiene and living conditions
- Communicable disease outbreaks
- Physical trauma
- Insufficient medical and psychological support
- Lack of reliable information and advice



Resettlement

Health & Wellbeing Needs of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

Mental Health



- Health and Wellbeing priority
- Prevention, identification and treatment strategies
- Training in culturally acceptable, effective therapies
- Frontline staff trained in identifying and supporting emotional health issues
- Safeguarding

Language



- Staff trained working with interpreters
- Interpreting and translation service provision
- Initial language assessment

Physical Health



- Vaccine catch up & screening, Nutrition
- Staff trained in migrant health & cultural awareness
- Initial health assessment
- Access to primary, secondary & dental care
- Maternity, sexual health and other specialist services
- Safeguarding procedures

Education



- Basic and psychological needs
- Initial assessment of educational needs
- Education plan & monitoring of progress
- English as Additional Language support
- Language skills in the child's first language

Social & Community Networks



- Integration plan
- Refugee support agencies
- Youth support projects
- Voluntary sector organisation
- Share best practice and expertise
- Positive links with local media
- Religious support groups



Leaving Care



- Rapid identification of immigration status before 18th birthday
- Pathway planning
- Risk of destitution for appeals rights exhausted UASC
- Increased risk of further exploitation on leaving care
- Strategies to improve community cohesion in view of increasing number of people with no recourse to public funds

Homes



- Varied accommodation options
- Accommodation choice guided by UASC needs
- Trained & informed carers
- Highest level of support possible in living arrangements