



GUIDANCE ON SUPPORT FOR BARKING AND DAGENHAM RESIDENTS WITH NO RECOURSE TO PUBLIC FUNDS (NRPF)

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- **Avril McIntyre** – Chair of BD_Collective
- **Kevin Makambe** – Head of Services, Community Solutions and Triage, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham
- **Sophie Keenleyside** – Strategy and Programme Officer, Public Health, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham Council

INTRODUCTION

This guidance stems from work that was conducted to address health inequalities experienced by residents of Barking and Dagenham who have No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF).



NRPF restrictions apply to a diverse range of immigrants, including EU nationals who are subject to immigration control as part of the UK's new points-based immigration system. Also, some people with NRPF are more vulnerable than others. For instance, some have rights to work and others do not, some pregnant mothers experience on complex issues that are not pregnancy-related.

The guidance aims to increase awareness of statutory entitlements for residents with No Recourse to Public Funds, and improve access to statutory, faith-based, and Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) services. This will improve resilience among individuals and families as well as the wider community.

WHAT DOES 'NO RECOURSE TO PUBLIC FUNDS' (NRPF) MEAN?



A person has No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) when they are 'subject to immigration control', as defined in section 115 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

The term '**Public Funds**' is restricted to a defined list of benefits and services set out in the Immigration Rules and the Home Office.

Only the benefits and services listed in Section 115 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 and at paragraph 6 of the Immigration Rules are classed as Public Funds for immigration purposes.

The benefits that a person with NRPF conditions cannot access are subject to change and the latest information can be located at GOV.UK (www.gov.uk/browse/benefits).

MYTHS AND FACTS

Research from this co-production found that, in most cases, people with NRPF do not seek support and likewise, service providers do not offer support. Sometimes this is due to restrictions related to a resident's migration status, but at other times it is because of misconceptions surrounding entitlements. Such myths are outlined below, along with the facts.

MYTH 1

People subject to NRPF conditions cannot access any benefits.

Fact

People subject to NRPF cannot access certain income-based welfare benefits. They still have access to many other benefits and services, which are set out in this guidance.

MYTH 2

All migrants are aware of their rights and entitlements and will have access to immigration documents.

Fact

Many migrants will not be aware of their rights or entitlements. This could be because they arrived here many years ago and were not told they needed certain paperwork; such as the Windrush generation, those who were born here, and those who have been the victims of abuse, modern slavery or human trafficking. Certain non-English speaking EU citizens that arrived before the UK left the EU may be unaware that they now require settled status. Similarly many migrants could have their documents deliberately withheld by people known to them or by statutory authorities, or have them stolen if sleeping rough.



when I arrived here I was told to stay in the house, never go out. I was fed-up one day and ran (escaped), I did not know anyone or anything.



Homeless resident subject to NRPF

MYTH 3 People cannot be assisted by social services when they have NRPF.



I can't even bother asking because I am not entitled to public funds and won't get anyway.

Single man with no children subject to NRPF



Fact

Social services' support is not a public fund for immigration purposes and local authorities have a duty to assess someone's needs regardless of their immigration status. The local authority should consider each case on its own merits, consider what the person wants to achieve, and how the action which the local authority is taking may affect the wellbeing of the individual.

According to section 1 of the Care Act 2014, local authorities must promote wellbeing when carrying out any of their care and support functions in respect of a person. This may sometimes be referred to as 'the wellbeing principle' because it is a guiding principle that puts wellbeing at the heart of care and support. Also under the Children's Act, local authorities have a duty to offer care and support to children, this also applies to children of parents with NRPF.

MYTH 4

pregnant woman with NRPF who has no other children in her care cannot be provided with support by the local authority until her child is born.



Pregnant mothers have to pay when they give birth. I wonder whether that applies to their entitlement to social services until they give birth and have a child?

Frontline Worker supporting NRPF residents



Fact

The local authority may need to consider whether a pregnant woman with NRPF is in need of care and support. Pregnant mothers with no children who present as destitute and have no care and support needs other than those that are pregnancy related, may be provided with accommodation under section 19(1) of the Care Act. A power under section 19(3) allows urgent needs to be met before an assessment of need is carried out.

MYTH 5

People without immigration status should not be in the country and are not entitled to support.



When a service user who is undocumented is in need of support, I am not sure what to do because they are not supported to be here.

Frontline Worker supporting residents with NRPF



Fact

There are many reasons why people have no current immigration status, and many will go on to receive full Refugee status and indefinite leave to remain. People without immigration status can be supported by public services provided they meet certain eligibility criteria. They can also be supported by faith-based and Voluntary, Community, Social Enterprise (VCSE) organizations.

MYTH 6

People who have overstayed their visas, or who have no status, do so knowingly.



my partner hid my passport. He was so controlling and abusive, I do not know where to start.

Female resident subject to NRPF and victim of domestic violence



Fact

Not all people who have overstayed their visa or have no status are aware of this. They may have been members of the Windrush generation and were never told they needed a certain status. They may have arrived from an EU country before Brexit and did not have the English language skills or connections to learn about the need to apply for settled or pre-settled status. They may have been victims of violence against women, domestic abuse, sexual violence and/or coercive control, human trafficking, modern slavery, and may have been lied to by their abuser about visa renewals and their rights and entitlements.

MYTH 7

Social services only have a duty to assist a child in an NRPf family, so can only accommodate the child and not the parent.



I am always fearful of what is going happen, because they can take my child if I asked for help since I have no rights to public funds.

Single mother subject to NRPf



Fact

According to the Children's Act 1989, the duty to maintain family contact states that if a local authority considers it necessary in order to promote the well-being of the child, they must take such steps as are reasonably practical to enable the child to live with the child's family. Offering to accommodate the child alone, or taking the child into care, is not an appropriate response in the absence of any safeguarding concerns. To do so may breach Article 8 European Convention Human Rights (ECHR), which protects the right to respect people's private and family life.

WHO IS SUBJECT TO NO RECOURSE TO PUBLIC FUNDS (NRPF) CONDITIONS?

People who are subject to immigration control are generally subject to a NRPF condition, which prevents them from accessing a list of specific benefits and services. It is important to note that claiming a public fund they are not entitled to can put a person at risk of deportation.

Source - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules>



Categories of people subjected to NRPF conditions include people who have:

- leave to enter as a visitor
- leave to remain as a spouse
- leave to remain as a student
- leave to remain granted under family or private life rules

NRPF conditions also apply to people with leave to enter or remain in the UK that is subject to a maintenance undertaking, such as:

- indefinite leave to remain as the adult dependent relative of a person with settled status (five-year prohibition on claiming)
- Visa overstayers
- Undocumented migrants which includes some Windrush generation migrants and migrants who entered the UK without being granted Leave to Enter or remain
- Asylum seekers
- Appeal Rights Exhausted (ARE) asylum seekers, also referred to as Failed Asylum Seekers in legislation (FAS) or Refused Asylum Seekers (RAS)
- EEA nationals who arrived in the UK before January 2020 and have not yet applied for Settled Status
- Victims of modern slavery who have been trafficked into the UK and have not received immigration permission

WHO IS NOT SUBJECT TO NRPF CONDITIONS?

People usually have access to public funds if they:

- Have indefinite Leave to Enter or Remain (unless they are granted this as an adult dependent relative)
- Have right of abode
- Are exempt from immigration control

SOCIAL BENEFITS THAT PEOPLE WITH NO RECOURSE TO PUBLIC FUNDS (NRPF) CAN ACCESS

Benefits that a person subjected to NRPF conditions can access (subject to the conditions that apply to their individual immigration status) include:

Source - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules>

- Bereavement Benefit
- Widow's Benefit
- Bereavement Support Payments
- New Style Jobseekers Allowance
- Contributory-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- New Style Employment and Support Allowance
- Contributory-based Employment and Support Allowance
- Guardian's Allowance
- Incapacity Benefit

- Maternity Allowance
- State Retirement Pension
- Statutory Maternity Pay
- Statutory Sickness Pay (SSP)
- Single person Council Tax discount
- Modern Slavery Victim Care Contract support

Additional services that can be accessed by everyone regardless of immigration status including people with NRPF

Childcare

Children aged 2 years from disadvantaged backgrounds including children whose parents have NRPF are entitled to 15 hours per week. Again parents would have to check with their local provider or local authority unless they are working parents and would like to apply for extended childcare of 3 hours per week.

To learn more, check:

 <https://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/free-childcare-and-education-for-2-to-4-year-olds>

Early Education

- All children in England aged 3-4 years are entitled to 15 hours of early education that is provided by a local provider or their local authority. Applications can be completed directly with the provider or local authority unless the parents want to apply for more than the universal hours of 15hours a week or 570hours per year. This entitlement ceases when the child joins main stream education.

To learn more check:

 <https://www.gov.uk/find-free-early-education>

Education

All children in the UK regardless of their parents' immigration status are entitled free education in a state school from the age of 5 years to 16years. <https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/>. Additionally, children of parents with NRPF are eligible to free school meals subject to their maximum income threshold which is calculated depending on whether they live in or outside London.

To learn more check:

 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/free-school-meals-guidance-for-schools-and-local-authorities>

Further Education

While anyone including people with NRPF aged 16years and above can pursue Level 2 college courses and English as Second Language (ESOL) courses free of charge. However, it is always advisable to check with your local college or training provider.

SOCIAL BENEFITS THAT A PERSON SUBJECTED TO NRPF CANNOT ACCESS

Currently, a person with NRPF cannot access the following social benefits, as they are classed as public funds:

Source - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-funds>

- Attendance Allowance
- Carer's Allowance
- Child Benefit
- Child Tax Credit
- Council Tax Benefit

- Council Tax Reduction (sometimes called Council Tax Support)
- Discretionary Welfare Payment (an England-only discretionary support payment made by a Local Authority under section 1 of the Localism Act 2011)
- Disability Living Allowance
- Housing Benefit
- Income-based Employment and Support Allowance (Not contribution-based employment and support allowance, which may also be known as 'new style' employment and support allowance)
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (Not contribution-based jobseeker's allowance, which may also be known as 'new style' jobseeker's allowance)
- Income Support
- Personal Independence Payment
- Severe Disablement Allowance
- State Pension Credit
- Universal Credit
- Working Tax Credit

SUPPORTING BARKING AND DAGENHAM RESIDENTS SUBJECTED TO NRPF CONDITIONS

The approach applied by frontline staff when supporting residents with NRPF is dependent on whether they are working in a statutory service, Voluntary, Community, Social enterprise (VSCE) or faith-based organization.

While the **local authority** will offer as much support as possible, frontline staff can only offer support if a person meets certain conditions and eligibility criteria for the sought benefit or service. However, they have a duty to assess a resident's needs through which they can support, sign-post or make a referral to the most suitable local service provider.

Some of the services provided by the **National Health Service (NHS)** are not a public fund for the purposes of immigration. For instance everyone in the UK can access immunisations,

NHS Healthy Start plus primary care services **free of charge**. This includes accessing GP practices, NHS walk-in centres, dentists, pharmacists and optometrists. However, a person may need to pay for prescriptions and dental treatment if none of the exemptions based on age, income or medical conditions apply. It is also worth noting that accessing hospital treatment and secondary care is dependent on the nature of treatment sought and one's immigration status therefore, it may not be free of charge. Public Health England provides comprehensive information on chargeable and free treatments as well as exemptions. To learn more check Migrant Health Guide - (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migrant-health-guide>)



On the other hand, **faith-based and Voluntary, Community, Social Enterprise (VCSE) organizations** often offer specialist services that may include but not limited to legal advice, ethnic food banks, multi-ethnic (BME) group activities, particular spiritual sector beliefs like Buddhism, Islam, Sikh, multi-ethnic or Islamic counselling, country-origin cooking classes, activities or parenting groups and many more. They are quite flexible in their approach and are not limited by family or immigration status. They can offer support dependent on their specialism, sign-post or make referrals to the most appropriate local service provider. They do not handle social benefits but can offer information and guidance. This support can be a lifeline for people who do not qualify for statutory support and are often relied upon by adults with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) who do not have children in their care or care needs, and who cannot access asylum support.

As mentioned earlier, this guidance also provides information on local services currently supporting Barking and Dagenham residents with No Recourse to Public Funds as stated below.

RESOURCES

Immigration Support Services

Ultimate Counselling

Room F03, First Floor, Dagenham
Learning Centre (Dagenham Library, 1
Church Elm Lane, Dagenham
RM10 9QS

☎ 0208 594 1514

✉ referrals@ucts.org.uk
therapy@ucts.org.uk

No Recourse to Public Funds Team Community Solutions

London Borough of Barking and
Dagenham Barking Town Hall, Barking,
IG11 7LU

✉ NRPF@lbbd.gov.uk

Women and Girls

EXCEL Women's Centre

13 London Road
Barking
IG11 8AA

☎ 0208 594 3730

✉ info@excelwomenscentre.org.uk

Children and Youth Community Services

John Smith House

Bevan Avenue, Barking
IG11 9LL

☎ 0203 288 2228 / 07958 956 417

🌐 www.futuremc.org.uk

Sexual Health

Sexual Health Services

Barking Community Hospital
Outpatient East, Hospital, Upney Ln,
Barking IG11 9LX

☎ 020 8970 5724

Domestic and Sexual Abuse

Refuge

Barking and Dagenham Domestic and
Sexual Abuse Service

☎ 0300 456 0174

☎ 07971 548705

✉ BDAdvocacy@org.uk

🌐 www.refuge.org.uk

Children Centres

Becontree Community Hub

Stevens Road, Dagenham, RM8 2QR

☎ 020 8724 1830

✉ becontreechildrenscentre@lbbd.gov.uk

Gascoigne Children's Centre

Gascoigne Community Centre, 160 – 164
Ripple Road, Barking IG11 7PR

✉ gascoignechildrenscentre@lbbd.gov.uk

Heath Community Hub (previously William Bellamy)

Frizlands Lane, Dagenham, RM10 7HX

☎ 020 8724 1924

✉ heathcommunityhub@lbbd.gov.uk

Marks Gate Community Hub

Rose Lane, Marks Gate, RM6 5NR

☎ 020 8270 4165

✉ marksgatecommunityhub@lbbd.gov.uk

Thames Community Hub (previously Sue Bramley)

Bastable Avenue, Barking, IG11 0LG

☎ 020 8270 6619

✉ thamescommunityhub@lbbd.gov.uk

Village Community Hub (previously Leys Children's Centre)

215 Wellington Drive, Dagenham,
RM10 9XW

☎ 020 8724 1983

✉ leyschildrenscentre@lbbd.gov.uk

Immigrant Men's Activities

Ultimate Counselling

Room F03, First Floor, Dagenham Learning
Centre (Dagenham Library, 1 Church Elm
Lane, Dagenham

RM10 9QS

☎ 0208 594 1514

✉ referrals@ucts.org.uk
therapy@ucts.org.uk

Maternity and Infant Care

Perinatal Parent – Infant Services

NELFT NHS Foundation Trust

Barley Court

Goodmayes Hospital

Barley Lane

Ilford, IG38XJ

☎ 0300 555 1119 Ext 68509

Education and Training

Barking and Dagenham College

Dagenham Road

Romford

RM7 0XU

☎ 020 8090 3020

Adult College of Barking and Dagenham

Adult Education

127 Ripple Rd, Barking IG11 7PB

☎ 020 8270 4722

Village Community Hub (previously Leys Children's Centre)

215 Wellington Drive, Dagenham, RM10
9XW

☎ 020 8724 1983

✉ leyschildrenscentre@lbbd.gov.uk

Sue Bramley Community Hub

☎ 0208724 1983

✉ children'scenters@lbbd.gov.uk

Immigration Legal Advice

Ultimate Counselling

Room F)3, First Floor, Dagenham
Learning Center (Dagenhan Library,
1 Church Elm Lane,

Dagenham

RM10 9QS

☎ 0208 594 1514

✉ referrals@ucts.org.uk

therapy@ucts.org.uk

Food Banks

The Source

Barking Learning Centre

2, Town Square.

Barking, IG11 7NB

Open week days only (11.30-1.30)

and

37A, Vicarage Field Shopping Centre

Barking, IG11 8DH

Open week days only (10.00-4.00)

☎ 020 8594 2404

✉ thesourcebarking@gmail.com

Marks Gate Relief Project

Rose Lane,

Marks Gate,

RM6 5NR

🌐 www.mgrp.org.uk

Community & Faith Organisations

Green Shoes Arts

Chadwell Heath Community Centre

255 High Road

Chadwell Heath

RM6 6AS

☎ 020 3720 2296

✉ david@greenshoesarts.com

🌐 www.greenshoesarts.com

Lifeline Community Resources

163 Bennett's Castle Lane

Dagenham

Essex

RM8 3YJ

☎ 0208 227 1927

✉ info@communityresources.co.uk

HumDum

121-125 Ripple Road,
Barking 1

G11 7FN

☎ 07917 454 786

✉ info@humdum.org

Barking Learning Centre (BLC)**Community Food Hub**

2 Town Square, Barking, IG11 7NB,

☎ 020 8724 8725 and 020 8724 8722

✉ cfc.blc@lbbd.gov.uk

Dagenham Library Community Food Hub

1 Church Elm Lane, Dagenham,
RM10 9QS

☎ 020 8227 3942

✉ cfc.dagenham@lbbd.gov.uk

**Heath Community Food Hub
(previously William Bellamy)**

Frizlands Lane, Dagenham, RM10 7HX

☎ 020 8724 1924,

🌐 cfc.h@lbbd.gov.uk

Marks Gate Community Food Hub

Rose Lane, Marks Gate, RM6 5NR

☎ 020 8270 4165

🌐 cfc.mg@lbbd.gov.uk

Company Drinks Pavilion

Outdoor Bowls Pavilion

Barking Park

Longbridge Road

Barking IG11 8TA

✉ contact@companydrinks.info

Al Madina Mosque Barking

2 Victoria Road,

Barking,

Essex, IG11 8PY

☎ 020 8478 8526

Kingsley Hall Church

Parsloes Avenue,

Dagenham,

Essex,

RM9 5NB

☎ 020 8592 1708

✉ info@khccc.com

St Margaret's Parish Church, Barking

The Broadway,

North St,

Barking

IG11 8AS

☎ 020 8594 2932

✉ office@stmargaretschurchbarking.com

**Thames Community Food Hub
(previously Sue Bramley)**

Bastable Avenue, Barking, IG11 0LG

☎ 020 8270 6619

✉ cfc.t@lbbd.gov.uk

Great Commision Church

102 Longbridge Road,

Barking

IG11 8SF

☎ 07485 226 869

✉ admin@gcmuk.org

Housing and Homeless

Housing Advice Service

London Borough of Barking and
Dagenham

Barking Town Hall,

Barking,

Essex IG11 7LU

☎ 020 8724 8323

✉ housingadviceservice@lbbd.gov.uk

The Salvation Army

240 Ripple Road , Barking , IG11 7DJ

United Kingdom

☎ 0208 594 2964

✉ fr@salvationarmy.org.uk

Gurdwara Singh Sabha London East

100 North Street

Barking

IG11 8JD

☎ 020 8594 3940

English Language Support Services

EXCEL Women's Centre

13 London Road

Barking

IG11 8AA

☎ 0208 594 3730

✉ info@excelwomenscentre.org.uk

Barking and Dagenham College

Dagenham Road

Romford

RM7 0XU

☎ 020 8090 3020

Adult College of Barking and Dagenham

Adult Education

127 Ripple Rd, Barking IG11 7PB

☎ 020 8270 4722

Housing and Homeless

Housing Advice Service

London Borough of Barking and
Dagenham
Barking Town Hall,
Barking,
Essex IG11 7LU
☎ 020 8724 8323
✉ housingadvice@lbbd.gov.uk

The Salvation Army

240 Ripple Road , Barking , IG11 7DJ
United Kingdom
☎ 0208 594 2964
✉ fr@salvationarmy.org.uk

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Ultimate Counselling

Room F03, First Floor,
Dagenham Learning Centre
(Dagenham Library),
1 Church Elm Lane,
Dagenham
RM10 9QS
☎ 0208 594 1514
✉ referrals@ucts.org.uk
herapy@ucts.org.uk

Barking and Dagenham Talking Therapies

Church Elm Lane Health Centre
Church Elm Lane
Dagenham
Essex
RM10 9RR
☎ 0300 300 1554 (ext. 3)
✉ bdtalkingtherapies@nelft.nhs

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

BD Collective directory

 <https://bdcollective.co.uk/directory-partners/>

Citizens Advice Bureau

Barking Learning Centre (Barking Library)

2 Town Square, Barking IG11 7NB

 0808 278 7870

RAMFEL

Cardinal Heenan Centre

High Road

Ilford

Essex

IG1 1QP

 020 7052 5212

 info@ramfel.org.uk

 www.ramfel.org.uk

British Red Cross

44 Moorfields,

London

EC2Y 9AL

 0207 704 5670

 LondonRU@redcross.org.uk

 <https://www.redcross.org.uk/>

Migrant Help

128 City Rd,

London

EC1V 2NX

 0808 8010 503

 S95NewApplications@migranthehelpuk.org

 <https://www.migranthehelpuk.org/>

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Ultimate Counselling is a user-led and not-for-profit organisation based in the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham. We provide community based mental health and outreach support services to the immigrant community. We also operate an immigrant support service in Dagenham Learning Centre (Dagenham Library). Our holistic and culturally sensitive approach aims at improving service users' mental health, welfare, economic wellbeing and community integration. We don't believe in one-size fits all therefore, our interventions are tailored to meet the specific needs of the service user. To learn more, visit our website or contact us on the details below

Address

Operational: Dagenham Learning Centre (Dagenham Library), First Floor, Room F03, 1 Church Elm Lane, Dagenham, RM10 9QS

Registered: 90 Longbridge Road, Barking, IG11 8SF

Telephone: 02085941514 / 07404979933

Email

General inquiries: therapy@ucts.org.uk

Referrals – referrals@ucts.org.uk

Management and Recruitment: admin@ucts.org.uk

Website: www.ucts.org.uk

