



Subject: EU Settlement Scheme - Children in Care and Care Leavers in Leeds

Background

There is a requirement for all EU, EEA and Swiss citizens to make an application to the EU Settlement Scheme before the 30 June 2021. Initially this will protect their rights and status as EU, EEA and Swiss citizens living in the UK until 30 June 2021. If they apply to the EU Settlement Scheme successfully, they'll be able to continue living and working in the UK after 30 June 2021.

Local authorities have a responsibility to identify European children who are in their care or have recently left care, and to ensure they have made applications to the EUSS to secure their future status.

However recent research by The Children's Society has found that less than 40% of the looked after children and care leavers identified as needing to secure status have in fact made applications to the EUSS.

In Leeds, since the scheme began we have been tracking all applications for children who are looked after, care leavers and children subject to a child in need plan or child protection plan. The numbers of children in each group can fluctuate on a regular basis as new referrals are made to social care or as children become newly looked after. Regular meetings are held with relevant staff to ensure progress is being made with applications, staff briefings have been held and guidance written to assist social workers in the process.

Current Position

Children who are looked after

We currently have 63 known children who are looked after who have an EU background.

For 50 children looked after their status has been secured, by either having:

1. EU Settled Status confirmed (Home Office confirmation on case record)
2. EU Settled Status having been applied for (Home Office confirmation on case record) and therefore no tasks outstanding for the moment for CSWS
3. British Citizenship confirmed (Home Office confirmation on case record)
4. Adoption Order granted (And Order on case file)

For the remaining 13 children, work is ongoing to support their status and progress the application.

Please see information below for the individual children:

Child 1 and 2-application has been made.

Child 3 status in place, parents made the application before the child came in to care.

Child 4 and 5 Paper EU Applications have been received from the Home Office and the application will be completed by week ending the 28th May.

Child 6 Paper EU Application has been received, the social worker will complete by weekending 21st May.

Child 7, 8 and 9 All identification now in place (in date passports), this is significant and we have now completed the on-line application.

Child 10, 11 and 12 Applications have been sent via recorded delivery as we do not have the children's passports so had to request paper applications. The social work team have been trying to secure passports for several months. Unfortunately due to embassy being closed due to Covid, this has not been possible. The social worker has checked with the resolutions team. They advise that they have not got the applications on the system yet but there is a backlog. This is being chased by the social work team.

Child 13- we have 1 child looked after where the application needs to be made however work is urgently being completed to ensure the application is made by the deadline.

Care Leavers

We also operate a tracking and monitoring system for Care Leavers. All of the young people on the original list have either applied for EUSS or do not need to apply as they have British Citizenship, or have already been granted settled status. There have been a small number of new care leavers who have been added to the list in recent weeks. Again applications have been made for those young people. There are two young people who are having difficulty getting status because of a criminal record issue, we have funded legal advice for these young people.