

Unaccompanied children or asylum seekers

The number of unaccompanied and refugee children arriving in the UK has risen over the last few years, including through the transfer of hundreds of children from Calais. Some of these children can be amongst the most vulnerable in society.

Recent evidence indicates that some children are arriving into the UK:

- In the care of adults who have no Parental Responsibility for them;
- In the care of adults who have no documents to demonstrate a relationship with the child;
- Alone; In the care of agents.

The Sussex child protection procedures are to be followed including sections

<http://sussexchildprotection.procedures.org.uk/tkhs/children-in-specific-circumstances/children-from-abroad#sthash.5PQJaxna.dpuf>

8.6 Children from Abroad

8.37 Trafficked Children

Where there is uncertainty about a suspected victim's age, children's services will be responsible for assessing their age.

Local Services (see BSUH safeguarding children web page)

Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants - Directory

<https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/sites/brighton-hove.gov.uk/files/Refugee%20Asylum%20Seekers%20and%20Migrants%20Directory.pdf>

The Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants Directory for Brighton & Hove lists organisations able to offer support to or take action for refugees, asylum seekers and migrants. Information about these services and signposting for professionals working with refugees, asylum seekers and migrants is available from the Chair of the Brighton & Hove Refugee Forum, Lucy Bryson on 01273 292572.

Brighton Voices in Exile www.brightonvoicesinexile.org

Brighton Voices In Exile is a registered charity reaching out to those seeking asylum, refugees and those with no recourse to public funds within Sussex.

They work on a three tier intervention approach; crisis intervention (destitution, deportation), stabilising situations (accommodation, finances), and longer term integration support (volunteering, education & employment).