

Guidelines for working with homeless EU and EEA national families

Schedule 3 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum act 2002 prohibits local authorities from providing support to families with children from EEA countries under section 17 of the Children's Act and only in rare circumstances is support likely to be provided. Each case is considered on its own merits.

On first presentation to the MASH or office presentation

Use language line if needed to assist with communication (please use your individual team code to access this)

- What is the nationality of each member of the family? ([list of EU/EEA countries and the NRPF guidance in documents library for more information.](#))
- Establish why has the family presented to Children's Social Care?
- What support is being sought from our department?
- How long has the family been in the UK?
- Where has the family been living and why is this no longer available?
- How has the family been financially sustaining themselves in the UK?
- Establish employment and education details for each family member.
- Have they approached the local authority housing department for advice/assistance?

If the family has not been to the local authority housing department then our advice in the first instance would be to present at the local housing office so their eligibility and individual situation can be assessed under housing law.

If the family has been to the local authority housing department then they will have written proof of this.

If the local authority housing department is stating that the family is not eligible for housing assistance they must be instructed to seek immediate advice from a solicitor or housing advisor (e.g shelter).

Establish family/friends who the family can stay with whilst the family get specialist housing advice and we can consider their position

If the family is still requesting a service at this point you are advised to call the Housing and Immigration team on 01865 328563.

Complete [checklist](#), gather all information. All this information needs to be visible and accessible via FWi.

Please note: If an EU or EEA national family becomes homeless in the UK and is claiming destitution then an offer of financial assistance to return home e.g flights and travel costs can be made to the family on a "without prejudice

basis” to resolve their immediate issues, as long as there are no child protection concerns, or there is the possibility that the person is fleeing a criminal sanction.

It is appreciated that these cases can be complex and time consuming so if you wish to discuss an individual case or you have questions around the guidelines then please contact the Housing and Immigration team in the first instance at the City CAFAT Team on 01865 328563.

As an alternative option you may wish to contact the NRPF Network in London – see [Section 4](#) for information and contact details

These are guidelines only and will be subject to change.