

<h1>BRIEFING</h1>	<b>TO:</b>	<b>Corporate parenting panel</b>
	<b>DATE:</b>	Meeting – 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2020
	<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	Ailsa Barr Assistant director children’s social care
	<b>TITLE:</b>	Settled Status for Looked After Children who are EU citizens
<b>1. Background</b>		
<b>1.1</b>	<p>The EU Settlement Scheme was fully launched by the Home Office on 30 March 2019. The scheme requires EU citizens and their families to apply for either Settled Status or Pre-Settled Status to secure their rights while living in the UK. The status EU citizens can apply for is determined by length of residency at the time of application.</p> <p>Eligibility is defined as any EU citizen or family member, arriving in the UK before 31 December 2020 and who does not pose a public security risk (serious or persistent criminal). The deadline for applications is 30 June 2021.</p> <p>Local authorities are required to make applications on behalf of eligible EU citizens (children) where a court order has granted parental responsibility. Applications are encouraged to be made online and include the submission of evidence for identity and residence.</p> <p>The council’s Senior Leadership Team receive regular updates in respect of progress and challenges in relation to this work, the last update was provided to SLT at the end of April 2020.</p>	
<b>2. Key Issues: What’s Working Well / What are we worried about?</b>		
<b>2.1</b>	<p><b>What’s Working Well?</b></p> <p>Below are the activities completed since January 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The report from the CYPS LiquidLogic system has been refreshed to confirm the cohort of eligible Looked After Children – this identifies that there are 79 children in the cohort from 7 different EU countries.</li> <li>• The report has also been reviewed to confirm the individual legal status of the cohort of eligible Looked After Children.</li> <li>• The CYPS LiquidLogic system has been configured to securely record application details made on behalf of a Looked After Child, this new development has been tested and is in the development work stack to make live.</li> <li>• Key Officers from RMBC (CYPS and AEX) have attended regular Home Office teleconferences.</li> </ul>	

<p>2.2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key Officers from RMBC (CYPS and AEX) attended a regional EU Settlement Scheme conference, facilitated by Migration Yorkshire with a keynote presentation from Coram Children’s Legal Centre to gain further insight into the administration for Looked After Children.</li> <li>• Six Looked After Children have received Settled Status having received formal confirmation letters from the Home Office.</li> <li>• 65 paper applications have been received from the Home Office for the Looked After Children who have no original proof of identity available i.e. passport or ID card, all these applications are uniquely referenced to the child. 30 forms have been completed and submitted, with the remaining applications either awaiting some supplementary evidence or the meeting to take place, we are on course to have the 79 completed by mid – end July.</li> <li>• Positive feedback has been received directly from the Home Office regarding the progress made by Rotherham.</li> <li>• Rotherham staff have been asked to support regional colleagues and have recently had a positive conversation with an authority in West Yorkshire on instigating their processes which would suggest we in Rotherham are further ahead than others.</li> <li>• CYPS Business Support, Virtual School Rotherham and CYPS Performance and Quality have analysed school attendance data for the eligible cohort of Looked After Children and have submitted evidence to support applications, this has been positively received and accepted as further proof of residency.</li> <li>• We use a tracker to monitor application progress for the 79 Looked After Children in scope.</li> </ul> <p><b>What are we worried about?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in the temporary suspension of some Home Office services, mainly the postal application route and telephony support from the Resolution Centre</li> <li>• Support from embassies in relation to administering applications for new or replacement ID documents has been withdrawn or significantly reduced</li> <li>• CYPS Social Work has reduced face to face visits therefore reducing support available to progress digital or paper-based applications</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Key Actions and Timelines</b></p>	
<p>3.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress applications as far as possible through virtual completion of paper forms, prioritising Looked After Children approaching 18 years of age and ensuring those that have left the care of the local authority have support in place to complete an application.</li> <li>• Continue to work with Virtual School Rotherham and more general school attendance data to provide proof of residency for Looked After Children eligible to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Follow up a request to the Home Office to check whether juvenile criminal activity is considered as part of the application checks.</li></ul>
<b>4. Recommendations: What are we going to do about it?</b>	
<b>4.1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• That Corporate Parenting Panel note the information contained within the briefing report and seek further assurance from the assistant director for children's social care at subsequent meetings of the panel.</li></ul>