



Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (USAC) Appendix 1

December 2024

Asylum Seeker's Welcome and Information

Welcome

Hello, and a very warm welcome to Fife in Scotland. I know you have travelled a long way and you must be very tired but also full of questions as to what will happen now you are in the UK and have arrived in Scotland.

Firstly we are delighted to have you here and we hope your stay with us will be enjoyable as you begin to start your new life by applying for asylum to remain in our country.

People who will support/help me

The place where you are staying is Shared Supported Accommodation. This is a placement in which you will be supported whilst your Asylum Claim is being processed.

When you first arrive, you will meet quite a few new people. Firstly, you will be allocated a Social Worker who will support you, initially, in placement and then afterwards, if your Asylum Claim is successful, to live more independently when you are ready to move on. You will be placed on a Section 29. This is a Legal Order that confirms you agree to be looked after by Fife Council which allows you to stay in this Supported Accommodation and receive support and finance whilst you are processing your asylum claim.

Shortly after arriving you will also be allocated a Legal Guardian and a Lawyer who will be there to help, support and guide you through the legal process of your asylum claim.

72 Hour Planning Meeting

When you first arrive it is important that we get to know as much as possible about you so that we can design a plan that best supports your individual, cultural, religious and health needs. As a result, we try to arrange a meeting within 72 hours of you arriving to discuss your immediate and longer-term needs and agree a plan to make sure your needs are met. An Interpreter should be present at this meeting so that you can understand, take part and agree with the plan that is put in place to support you. This plan will then be reviewed after 6 weeks and then reviewed every 6 months to ensure the plan is meeting your ongoing needs. These reviews can be held earlier if there is any significant changes at any time.

Health

Your health and wellbeing is very important to us. As a result a medical assessment will be arranged to make sure you are fit and healthy. Arrangements will also be made for you to receive vaccinations and immunisations that everyone else in the UK have had and are entitled to. Appointments to see a Dentist and an Optician will also be arranged as soon as possible.

Education

You will be enrolled at a local school and/or attend a Local Community Centre as soon as practically possible. It is important to attend Education as here you will learn English and other subjects which may help you move on to college or university in the future.

There may also be groups and activities within the local community that we would encourage you to attend also.

Finances

Personal allowance

You will receive a weekly allowance of £77.92. This money is for you to purchase personal items, clothing and food.

Food

You will be responsible for buying and cooking your own food. You will have a cupboard in the kitchen and you have an individual fridge in your bedroom. You will be supported to go shopping by a Support Worker to begin with.

Clothes

Social Work will provide an emergency payment for clothes when you first arrive. This is to ensure you have adequate and basic clothing and footwear. You will be supported by someone to spend this. This payment does not cover expensive or branded items of shoes, trainers or clothing. If you wish to buy branded clothes, sportswear or trainers you will have to save up and contribute to this from your own allowance that you receive each week.

Prayer mat and copy of Quran

Both or either of these products are available on request.

Money for Toiletries

Toiletries are to be purchased from your own allowance which you receive weekly from social work.

Travel

When you arrive in Fife your Social Worker will apply for a bus pass for you to use. This will allow you free bus travel throughout Scotland whilst you reside in the country.

Mobile Phones and Laptops

Whilst we understand how important it is to have a mobile phone. Social work only have enough funds to provide you with a basic mobile phone. If you want the most up to date phone you will need to save up your allowance to purchase this yourself.

Once you start School, the school should be able to order you a laptop which will help you learn English both at School and at home. It will also allow you to attend meetings online with your legal guardian and lawyer when discussing your asylum claim. Your Social Worker should be able to help ensure you receive a laptop from school so its ok to discuss this with them.

ARC Card and Bank Account

Your social worker will apply to the home office for your Application Registration Card. This is called an ARC Card. This card is issued by the Home Office and to individuals who claim asylum. It certifies that you are an Asylum Claimer and that you can reside in the UK whilst your claim is pending.

Once you have your ARC Card, this will help provide proof of your identification which will allow you to open a Bank Account in the UK.

Housing Application

Your Social Worker will help you fill in a Housing Application. Once you have your Right to Remain you may then be offered your own Tenancy, here, in Fife.

Until that time comes, you will stay here. Your Rent and Bills, such as Electricity and Broadband, will be paid by Social Work until you are over the age of 18 and have your Right to Remain. However, after 3 months of having your Right to Remain and over the age of 18, you will be expected to pay for both Rent and Bills.

Support, Help and Advice

You will be supported regularly by Social Work and Support workers. There will be weekly group meetings within the house where we will have an Interpreter available to discuss any issues or concerns you may have.

If you are ever unhappy in placement or feel you require additional help or advice for any reason please contact your Social Worker who should be in a position to discuss and resolve any difficulties you may be experiencing whilst residing with us in Fife.