

## **Note sent from Home Office to Strategic Migration Partnerships on 7 July 2021**

### **New NTS rota**

We wanted to share now, ahead of the regional implementation calls, the updated rota modelling and the change plan we have developed to support implementation of the voluntary rota.

We are grateful for your engagement throughout and the new rota modelling reflects your feedback.

Just to remind you of the underpinning principles for the new rota. The aim has been to secure a fairer distribution of UASC which continues to prioritise their best interests and reflects the challenges faced by local authorities.

The model which has now been agreed gives greater weighting to factors relating to children's services while ensuring a significant recognition is also given to pressures from the supported asylum population. The final weightings applied are:

Child population	25%
LAC per 10k	22%
UASC per 10k	10%
Former UASC care leavers per 10k	10%
Supported asylum population per 10k	33%

We recognise that, to achieve the objective of a more equitable distribution, the rota requires significant change for some regions/nations and therefore we have developed a change plan to support regions/nations implement this. This is a concern that many of you raised directly with us over recent weeks. We have sought to set out an incremental approach that will allow for a phased transition, at the end of which regions will be fully delivering on the rota allocations. We believe this will provide a clear path to implementing the rota while ensuring that regions that see the most change, are able to manage their capacity in a structured way so that they are able to ensure that they can meet the needs of transferring UASC.

Developing the change plan has given us opportunity to refresh the core rota modelling. The underpinning data for each factor is now the most recent verified data as of 1 July<sup>1</sup>. We have also sought to ensure the modelling is as realistic as

---

<sup>1</sup> The data sources are:

Child population:

Office for National Statistics (ONS) mid-2020 population estimates published June 2021

Supported asylum, UASC and former UASC care leaver populations:

Home Office management information, collated for the RASI place based report March 2020

Looked after children rate:

England - "Children looked after in England including adoption: Reporting year 2020"

## Note sent from Home Office to Strategic Migration Partnerships on 7 July 2021

possible by increasing the number of expected referrals to 650 in a year. This reflects our operational learning over the past twelve months. Adjusting this figure does not impact on the proportion of UASC referrals to be allocated to a region/nation under the rota but will ensure the **illustrative number** is as reliable as possible. Of course, this is a difficult number to predict and we will continue to monitor and refine the estimate for future revisions of the modelling.

### The change plan

We will be discussing the change plan at the upcoming implementation meetings, and national launch event, but we felt it would be useful to explain the document a little.

The change plan sets out a staged approach for regions/nations to build capacity to meet the allocation of UASC placements set out by the rota. To do this we have broken the expected 650 annual transfers into four cycles which allows us to apply incremental adjustments to each region/nation's allocation at each cycle and avoid a sudden change.

Subject to the rate of referrals received and children placed, alongside our estimate of 650 referrals in a year, our expectation is that this change plan will be in place for around two years. At the end of this period, regions/nations will have developed processes and capacity to implement the rota allocations in full.

The columns on the left show the starting point based on maintaining the current distribution of UASC across the UK.

The columns on the right show the endpoint for NTS placements as guided by the rota weightings.

The blue columns in the centre set out the number of placements to be allocated to each region/nation at each cycle. These allocations will either increase or decrease in a linear manner as we progress through the cycles toward the endpoint.

The change plan remains **illustrative** at this stage as we work with devolved nations to finalise their participation in the scheme and commitment under the rota. We are grateful for those ongoing conversations which have so far demonstrated significant ambition to support vulnerable children.