

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

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Who is an unaccompanied asylum seeking child?

- The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees defines unaccompanied children as:

“those who are separated from both parents and are not being cared for by an adult who by law or custom has responsibility to do so”

UNCHR (1994) Refugee Children: Guidelines of protection and care.

Why do unaccompanied children and young people seek asylum?

- A Case file audit of 100 unaccompanied young people in London carried out by Thomas et al (2004) found that the main motives of fleeing were due to:
 - The death or persecution of family members
 - The persecution of the young person
 - Forced recruitment
 - War
 - Being trafficked
 - Educational purposes where schools at home had closed down

How have unaccompanied asylum seeking children arrived in Wolverhampton?

- Unplanned arrivals: young people arriving wither by being found or self-presenting
- Planned moves: via National Transfer Scheme. LA to support other LAs who are more overwhelmed with unaccompanied asylum seeking children e.g. Kent

(0.07% of child population) – 41 children

Wolverhampton has supported 6 children through NTS or voluntary support to other Authorities

- 5 young people from Kent
- 1 young person from London Borough of Ealing
- 1 further place under NTS by end of March 2017

Total numbers of unaccompanied asylum seeking children in the care of Wolverhampton City Council

Nationality	Male	Grand Total
South African	2	2
Zimbabwean	1	1
Ethiopian	1	1
Sudanese	1	1
Iranian	1	1
Iraqi	1	1
Egyptian	1	1
Vietnamese	1	1
Grand Total	9	9

[Position at end of November 2016]

Placements at The Royal School Wolverhampton

- 6 young people placed who are:
 - Achieving well academically
 - Representing the school in sports events regionally or locally
 - Engaging in local community activities
 - Developing positive relationships with other students
 - Receiving good support from Social Worker and partner agencies
 - Excellent support from Headteacher and staff

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