

UASC Controlling Migration Fund Payments – March 2017

FAQ

Q: So what's this money for?

A: It's a contribution towards building council's capacity to support Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children, so say starting a foster care/supported lodging recruitment, training staff or support for these children. This contribution recognises that 2016 was a particular challenge at a point in time.

Payments are of course not intended to duplicate UASC tariff rates.

Q: So is this the full response to the invitation to bid against the Controlling Migration Fund for actions to build capacity to support Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children?

A. No. This is an initial payment ahead of considering CMF UASC bids for funding to support development of capacity together received by the end of April.

Q: You mention a letter. When will this be sent?

A: A letter from Department of Communities and Local Government, Home Office, and department for Education was sent to Leaders on 28 March. It was copied to Chief Executives, the Association of Directors of Children's Services and to the Local Government Association.

Q: So who will be getting these payments?

A: Payments at this stage will be made to those authorities that have supported the response to the large number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children arriving and fall into one or more of three categories. Those authorities that:

- have participated in the National Transfer Scheme and placed a child in their care (including those children relocated from France under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 – the 'Dubs amendment' and those children transferred to be reunited with family, but who subsequently had to be taken into care);
- have a Dublin III child relocated from Calais living in their area;
- are above the 0.07% ratio.

Qualifying authorities will receive £9,500 for each category that applies to them. So for example if a council has Calais Dublin III children located in their area, and volunteered to take children through the National Transfer Scheme, they would receive £19,000. If additionally your authority is currently caring for more than 0.07% unaccompanied asylum seeking children to the total child population in your area, the payment will be £28,500.

Q: What about the contribution towards family assessment for Calais children being reunited with families?

A: Where you have undertaken a family assessment for a child from Calais reunified with family under Dublin III the grant payment will also include an additional contribution equal to £300 per child.

Q: Are there councils that support UASCs but do not get this payment?

A: Yes – if they did not fall into one of the three categories.

Q: These payments do not reflect costs we incur regarding UASCs

A: We will look at the totality of bids from 28 April. Clearly though, these payments are not intended to duplicate the UASC Tariff rates. And we need to consider the ultimate contribution with regard to a finite sum and other bids being made against the fund.

Q: What is the basis for the March payment?

A: It is based on the most recent data available from the Home Office.

Q: I think my authority may have been over or under paid

A: If so let us know. We will feed that information into the consideration of CMF UASC bids after 28 April.

Q: Do councils need to do anything to get the March payment?

A: No – it will be paid automatically.

Q: When will payments be made?

A: By 31 March 2017.

Q: What are the conditions around use of the money?

A: It is paid under s31, and as such is not ring fenced. We have however allocated the funding in the context of the need to build capacity to support unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

Q: Will we receive a grant determination letter?

A: No that is for internal purposes. The approach to calculating funding is set out in the letter to local authorities.

Calais Dublin III Family Assessments

Q: What about the contribution to the costs of family assessments for children from Calais reunited with families under Dublin III?

A: £300 in respect of each child will be paid. This is additional to the £9,500, £19,000 or £28,500 payments.

CMF-UASC bids

Q: So when do bids to the Controlling Migration Fund for UASC related projects need to be submitted?

A: On or before 28 April 2017.

Q: We have already submitted a bid for CMF UASC support. Do we need to resubmit?

A: No.

Q: How do we submit a proposal?

A: The proposal form is available online at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/controlling-migration-fund-prospectus>. UASC related proposals will need to be sent to migrationfund@communities.gsi.gov.uk on or before 28 April. The Fund will continue to welcome other proposals around migration pressures.

Q: Can an authority submit a CMF bid including UASC support after 28 April?

A: We will need to decide after April whether and how much further CMF might usefully support in this theme going forward.

Q: So does an authority only get funding if we submit a proposal.

A: Not necessarily. As well as the proposals we will consider a range of information including numbers and spread of UASCs and commitment to support the National Transfer Scheme.