



CHILD FRIENDLY WARWICKSHIRE

Warwickshire Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Team (UASC)



**NCASC UASC Session
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Warwickshire & UASC

Warwickshire is a rural county with just over 120,000 children.

Warwickshire's location is unique. We are often the first place lorry's stop, as motorways merge – M40, M42, M6, M1 etc. This was how the majority of our young people arrived. Some still do but the numbers have reduced but we continue to take young people through the transfer scheme and Kent County Council.

We have a proud history of being a county that welcomes refugees and asylum seekers. With political support (conservative majority led council) from our Leader to support children arriving alone in the UK.

Our 0.1% figure is 119. Today we have 122 UASC young people in care and a further 293 UASC Care Experienced Young People.

40% of our Care Experienced Young People are UASC.

Our UASC Population Top Nationalities are 23.5% are Sudanese, 18.6% Afghan, 18.6% Eritrean and 13% are Iranian/Persian.





We are proud of our young people.

- We established an integrated UASC and Leaving Care Service. Which has no vacancies and very little turnover in social workers and personal advisors.
- The majority of young people but not all are male and aged 15-17 years old when they arrive. We have also taken young people with very significant disability/health and safeguarding issues directly through the UN, from UN Refugee Camps.
- We have a range of placement options, fostering and registered supported accommodation. The number of UASC placed within the County is rising, currently at 56%.
- We assumed for cultural reasons young people would want to be placed in local city's but we were wrong. We now work with a number of providers who have purchased, built and opened specific registered supported accommodation.
- We provide a variety of specific support including arts projects to support trauma from lived experiences, additional UASC Nurse to address health issues and specific opportunities advisors to support EET.





Ofsted – Focussed Visit March 2023.

“Care-experienced young people who were formerly unaccompanied asylum-seeking children receive an exceptional service.

Personal advisers ensure that their immediate needs are met and provide safe, suitable accommodation that meets their needs.

Education support is of a high standard and interpreters and language courses are used effectively. This helps these young people to enhance their skills and supports them well in their daily lives.

Personal advisers recognise the importance of stability and promptly secure appropriate legal advice when this is necessary. When applications have failed, they are tenacious in exhausting all options to support young people to remain in the country.”





Voices of Young People

Listening to the views of our young people is what we do, it is no different with UASC

We completed a project with the Home Office in 2020 to obtain the views of young people.

All the videos are on our You Tube channel

To give you a flavour, here some of the young people in Warwickshire talk about their experience of when they first arrived in the UK. The young people describe what happened, how they felt, how they were treated and provide an insight for other young people seeking asylum, foster carers and professionals.

[My first experience of arriving in the UK - YouTube](#)



Top tips.....



Supporting UASC in a rural county is possible.

Workforce is not a barrier – developing skills and knowledge is possible.

Work with providers to develop UASC care and accommodation.

Remember they are just children and young people, needing the same support as all our other children.



Thoughts & Reflections





Any questions?