

Transient Families Team

Nottingham CityCare

The Transient Families team, led by Suzanna Keegan, currently provides the Healthy Child Programme to families and children seeking asylum, unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) and Irish travellers but will soon also cover families and children in domestic abuse refuges. The team includes band 4 and 5 staff, health visitors, dual qualified health visitor and school nurse, and child and young person practitioners supported by admin.



700

overall caseload size in 2025

90%

of UASC in Nottingham are 16 or older

50%

extra appointment time essential



Identifying the Need

The team initially started as part of the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP). It was quickly realised that other asylum seeker families were being cared for by the 0-19 team which wasn't sufficiently specialised to meet their needs. A recent Joint Strategic Needs Assessment also highlighted a sharp increase in the number of adults and children seeking asylum in the City

Service Development

Suzanna used her wealth of knowledge and experience from 10 years of health visiting as well as learning from seminars and conferences on asylum seeker health needs to develop the team. The team has grown over the years.

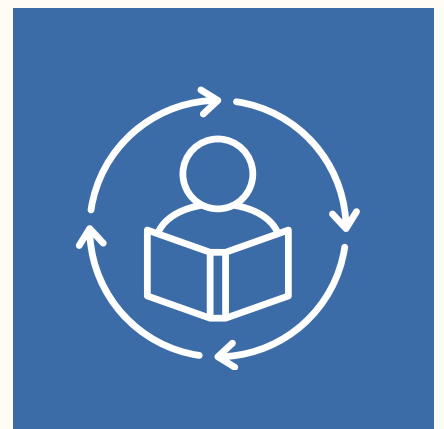
Most referrals come from the GP or midwives but sometimes the families are found by the Transient Families Team directly

Challenges

- Building trust
- Language barriers
- Cultural barriers
- Trauma
- Poor information sharing between professionals
- Lack of records
- Risk of exploitation, going missing, abuse and poor educational, mental and physical health outcomes
- Low literacy
- Poor physical and mental health of the parents
- Political climate
- Emotional toll on staff



Click [here](#) to watch Aisha's story on how the Transient Families Team supported her and her 3 year old daughter



Key Learning Points

- Importance of good team working, emotional resilience and regular debriefs on difficult or distressing cases
- Conduct new health needs assessment for every child referred to ensure special needs met even if one has previously been carried out by a different service
- Trauma-informed approach is vital
- Importance of regular learning and reflecting to adapt and react quickly
- Partnership working is essential with local authority, Serco, primary care, Nottingham Refugee forum, Migrant Help, midwives, charities and Al-Hurraya

Achievements

- 1.Many families helped and advocated for
- 2.Opened drop in stay-and-play session well attended by asylum-seeking families
- 3.Monthly safeguarding meeting created for information sharing
- 4.Campaigning for specialist midwife for travellers and for babies not to be place in hotels without safe sleeping arrangements

Future Plans

- Further training and psychological support for staff
- Expand team for more timely 5-19 appointments
- Increase funding
- Ensure interpreters at birth registrations