

## Children's Experiences of the Hostile Environment QSD on 9 July 2019

This briefing identifies relevant reports and useful documents, including recent parliamentary materials and press articles, which may be of assistance to Members in preparing for the following debate:

The Lord Bishop of Durham to ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of Project 17's report *Not Seen, Not Heard: Children's Experiences of the Hostile Environment*.

Copies of the materials are available for collection from the Library.

### Key Information

- Project 17, [Not Seen, Not Heard: Children's Experiences of the Hostile Environment](#), February 2019

*Copy of Project 17's report on migrant children's experiences under the UK Government's immigration policies. Project 17 is an organisation that works with migrant children whose families have 'no recourse to public funds' (NRPF) due to their immigration status. Recommendations from the report included rebalancing local authority decision making to take "children's views, wishes and feelings" into consideration when decisions are made and increasing the level of financial support provided to families with NRPF.*

- Home Office and UK Visas and Immigration, '[Immigration Act: Overview](#)', 12 July 2016

*Guidance produced by the Government setting out measures in the Immigration Act 2016. The act built on the Immigration Act 2014, to "make it harder for people to settle in the UK when they have no right to do so". The guidance states the act "restrict[s] the support we give to people whose claims for asylum have been unconfirmed, and their dependants, to those who are poor and face a genuine problem in leaving the UK". It also states that that the Government "will continue to meet all of our obligations towards asylum seekers, refugees and children but equally we should be expecting illegal migrants to leave the UK rather than providing access to support".*

- [Debate on 'Children Act 1989: Local Authority Responsibilities'](#), HC Hansard, 19 March 2019, cols 1016–24

*Debate in the House of Commons on the responsibility of local authorities to provide services to families with NRPF as set out under section 17 of the Children Act 1989. In introducing the debate, Kate Osamor, Labour MP for Edmonton, stated that "many children have been and are being failed" by the current system. In response, the Government stated that it had "an impressive track record of ensuring that those who are in genuine need are supported appropriately".*

## Parliamentary Questions

- House of Lords, '[Written Question: Immigration](#)', 19 March 2019, HL14302
- House of Commons, '[Written Question: Immigrants: Children](#)', 25 February 2019, 222020
- House of Lords, '[Written Question: Undocumented Migrants](#)', 4 May 2018, HL7145

## Press Articles and Comment

- Alex Matthews-King, '[NHS 'Hostile Environment' and Charges Limiting Care to Children of Migrants in Breach of UN Pledges, Doctors Say](#)', *Independent*, 15 March 2019
- Aamna Mohdin, '[Destitute Children Unlawfully Denied Support by Local Councils](#)', *Guardian*, 26 May 2019
- Greg Heffer, '[New Home Secretary Sajid Javid Disowns PM's 'Hostile Environment'](#)', Sky News, 1 May 2018

## Further Information

- Home Office, '[Immigration Statistics, Year Ending March 2019](#)', accessed 1 July 2019
- [Debate on 'Immigration'](#), *HC Hansard*, 26 June 2019, cols 673–725
- London Councils, '[No Recourse for Public Funds](#)', accessed 1 July 2019
- Hackney Migrant Centre, [Section 17 Support—A Guide for Families](#), February 2019
- The Children's Society and Coram Children's Legal Centre, [The Impact Of The 'Hostile Environment' On Children And Young People Today](#), 30 April 2018

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