

A weekly round up of local government news in the East Midlands brought to you by East Midlands Councils

Top items this week

26 NOVEMBER 2021



East Midlands Regional Employers' Board and Regional Joint Council



National Transfer Scheme



Midlands Engine Update



EMC Events for Councillors and Officers

National Transfer Scheme to become mandatory for all local authorities

Children's services across the UK have been informed of the Home Offices intention to temporarily mandate the scheme.

This week (Tuesday 23 November), the Minister for Safe and Legal Migration, Kevin Foster, has written to all local authorities with children's services across the UK to inform them of the government's intention to temporarily mandate the National Transfer Scheme. Under this change all local authorities have been given legal notice to accept transfers of children into their care, providing crucial placements to unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC).

The decision to mandate the scheme is vital to ensure unaccompanied asylum-seeking children receive the critical care they need and end the use of hotels for them following the unprecedented recent pressure placed on the asylum system.

Details of the announcement can be found [here](#). For further details relating to the National Transfer Scheme please contact Matthew Clarke, Senior UASC Policy Advisor at East Midlands Councils (matthew.clarke@emcouncils.gov.uk)

Inspection Report Published: An inspection of asylum casework - The Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration (ICIBI), David Neal, conducted an inspection which examined the efficiency and effectiveness of the Home Office's asylum casework system.

Publishing the report, David Neal said *"I welcome the publication of this report, which explored the efficacy of the Home Office's ability to make timely and good quality asylum decisions. It examined resourcing, training, workflow, case progression and the prioritisation of cases, as well as the quality of interviews, decisions and quality assurance mechanisms.*

I made nine recommendations focusing on case progression, workplace culture, training and skills. I am pleased that the Home Office accepted eight recommendations in full, and partially accepted one. I am also encouraged to learn that work on their implementation commenced prior to publication of this report."

Details of the announcement and full report can be found [here](#)

EMC News

EMC Support Activity

East Midlands Scrutiny Network, 10 December - The next East Midlands Scrutiny network meeting will take place on 10 December, 10:00 – 11:30. The meeting will include a session from Ed Hammond, Deputy Chief Executive at the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny on 'Scrutiny in Local Government Post Pandemic'.

The East Midlands Scrutiny Network normally meets four times a year and be open to non-executive local authority councillors and officers. The network provides Councillors and Officers with the opportunity to share knowledge, work programmes and information, as well as providing an opportunity to explore national developments concerning scrutiny.

For more information and to receive a calendar invitation to attend this virtual network meeting please contact Kirsty.lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk .

EM Performance Management Network meeting, 2 December 2021 - EMC will host the next EM Performance Management Network meeting on 2 December 9:30 – 11:00, the focus for this meeting will be on KPI Setting Methods. For more information contact Kirsty.lowe@emcouncils.gov.uk

Infrastructure, Planning & Housing



Home Upgrade Grant workshop - The Department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) is hosting a workshop for councils on successful application-writing for the Home Upgrade Grant (HUG). The session will take place at 13:00pm on 6 December and cover:

- key points assessors look for on scored questions
- common pitfalls and trends they have seen in previous competitions that cause lower scores
- key points the best applications tend to include

The October 2021 Heat and Buildings Strategy announced £950 million to be allocated to HUG, which will be delivered from April 2022 to March 2025. Future opportunities to bid for funding under the HUG scheme will be communicated in due course. To help manage capacity at the event, please confirm your attendance by contacting HUG.Project@beis.gov.uk. Workshop registration form available from [here](#).

All social homes required to have smoke alarms fitted - People living in social housing will be safer in their homes under new rules that will mean smoke alarms must be fitted in all rented accommodation, Housing Minister Eddie Hughes MP announced this week.

The announcement will mean housing providers are required by law to install smoke alarms in all social housing, and carbon monoxide alarms must be fitted in social and private rented properties with fixed appliances such as gas boilers or fires [details [here](#)].

Government policy on freeports – the House of Commons Library has this week published a document on ‘Government policy on freeports’. The report can be found [here](#).

East Midlands News

Midlands cities named on global climate leaders list - Nottingham and Leicester have been recognised by environmental charity CDP as global leaders for climate action and ambition by being named on the organisation’s A List. Made up of 95 cities globally, the CDP A List celebrates those demonstrating their climate leadership through concerted and effective action despite the continued pressures of tackling the coronavirus pandemic on local and national economies and societies. Other UK cities on the A list include Edinburgh, Manchester and Newcastle, drawn from over 1,000 cities worldwide that reported their environmental impact through CDP in 2021 [details [here](#)].

State of the region report to headline QEB - The Midlands Engine Observatory’s 2021 State of the Region report reflecting on how the region has performed economically over the past calendar year will be formally launched at the Quarterly Economic Briefing on 10 December.

The final briefing of the year is part of a series of online webinars which bring policymakers and data experts from across our region together to share and discuss recent research from the Midlands Engine Observatory.

For the first time hosted on a dedicated microsite, the State of the Region report will look specifically at the impact and implications of COVID-19 and EU Exit on our region.

Amid these challenges, the Midlands Engine and the Midlands Engine Observatory have undertaken research to understand how these challenges have affected our region and how growth and prosperity can be best promoted [details [here](#)].

D2N2 LEP launched new strategy on international trade and investment. The Enterprise Partnership, in partnership with the Department for International Trade (DIT) has published a new report outlining how the region can build its competitiveness, drive productivity and create more jobs by increasing international trade.

D2N2 Global: International Trade Strategy sets out the region’s ambition to increase the percentage of D2N2 businesses that export goods and services. It identifies key strategic priorities and actions to ensure that the business community can become more confident and active in overseas markets [details [here](#)].

Employers’ Information

East Midlands Regional Employers’ Board and Regional Joint Council - The Regional Employers’ Board and Regional Joint Council met this week. The Regional Joint Council meeting included a presentation from Nigel Carruthers from the LGA on T Levels, providing an overview of these qualifications and the importance of providing work placements. Joint priorities were agreed for the forthcoming year.

The Regional Employers’ Board meeting discussed progress on the existing workplan. The Board agreed the following priorities would be the focus of the workplan for 2021-22:-

- Supporting councils with recruitment/retention issues
- Providing guidance and development opportunities for councils to successfully adapt to new ways of working
- Workforce health and well-being
- Promoting new training schemes to address skills shortage areas, eg apprenticeships, T levels, etc
- Refresh of equality and diversity to support inclusion

For information on the Regional Employers’ Board and Regional Joint Council visit [here](#).

Local Government News

Association of Democratic Service Officers (ADSO) Awards - This week the Association of Democratic Service Officers held their annual awards. We are delighted to share that David Hair from Lincolnshire County Council was awarded the 'Distinguished Service award'. EMC would like to congratulate David.

LGA Event, Attracting private investment through public-private partnerships Thursday 2 December 2021, 10.30am – 12.00pm - public private partnerships (PPPs) have the potential to drive innovation and transformative change and can unlock significant opportunities for local authorities to meet the needs of their places and communities. When designed and delivered in the right way, they can support economic resilience and promote inclusive growth. Drawing on expertise and insight from both the public and private sectors, you will hear about the practical steps in which local authorities can harness the potential of PPPs and good practice examples by councils and their partners [[here](#)].

Cyber Security Advice for Businesses Professionals, 2 December 2021 -The East Midlands Special Operations Unit, will host a free Webinar on how businesses can maintain great cyber security. Cyber Security is the protection of your hardware, software and data from unauthorised access and cyber attacks. Hear from East Midlands Special Operations Cyber Protect Officers on the latest cyber threats and how to mitigate them [detail [here](#)].

Polling on resident satisfaction with councils: Round 30, October 2021- The LGA measures resident satisfaction with councils every three to four months. This report presents the results of the thirtieth round of polling conducted in October 2021 [details [here](#)].

Health & Social Care

Personal protective equipment for unpaid carers - This week, the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) published guidance which outlines personal protective equipment (PPE) advice for unpaid carers who do not live with the person they care for. Other unpaid carers may choose to use this guide. It should be used alongside guidance for those who provide unpaid care to friends or family and local policies where they exist such as in care homes or day centres. Guidance overview [here](#) and the guidance paper [here](#).

£5 million launched to support suicide prevention services - The government has launched a £5 million fund to support the Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector on suicide prevention services.

- Funding will help these services meet increased demand from the pandemic
- £4 million suicide prevention grant fund will support Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector suicide prevention services
- Grant to focus on supporting high risk groups, including children and young people and those with pre-existing mental health conditions

The funding will provide organisations with additional resource that will enable them to either set up new projects or expand or sustain current services to ensure people are supported. The other £1 million of the funding has been set aside to support existing and ongoing voluntary sector suicide prevention programmes [details [here](#)].

EMC Events

East Midlands Councils Low-Cost CPD Programme for Environmental Health 2021/22, virtual event on Housing, 9 December 2021 -The seminar topic is Housing and takes place on Thursday 9th December 2021 and will be held virtually via MS Teams [further details [here](#)]. The programme for the event includes presentations on

- Selective Licensing & Civil Penalties Scheme
 - Mobile Homes legislation and the new Fit & Proper Person test
 - Mobile Homes prosecution case study
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EMC Leadership

Chair: Cllr Martin Hill OBE
Vice Chair: Cllr David Mellen
Vice Chair: Cllr Jonathan Morgan
Conservative Group: Cllr Roger Blaney
Labour Group: Cllr Rob Parker
Lib Dem Group: Cllr David Bill MBE
Independent Group: Cllr Jason Zadrozny
Executive Director: Stuart Young

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