

POST LEAVE TO REMAIN SUPPORT

1. For clients entitled to benefits
2. For clients not entitled to benefits (NRPF)

1. Post Leave to Remain Support: Policy for supporting clients who are entitled to claim benefits

These clients may be new referrals or existing SWVG clients. They should show that they have explored all possible sources of alternative support (eg friends, relatives) before applying for ASSIST.

- SWVG will pay **subsistence** at the usual rate for up to 8 weeks after being granted LR, stopping when the client is in receipt of benefits (Universal Credit). For those clients on NASS, who are usually given 2 weeks' notice of support ending, SWVG will pay the following 6 weeks' subsistence to allow 8 weeks for benefits to start.
- If SWVG is paying **rent**, this will continue for a maximum of 8 weeks.
- SWVG will **not provide new accommodation** to clients with Leave to Remain who can claim benefits. Two Saints can provide help and have a list of places where they can find accommodation.
- **Advice on applying for benefits and getting accommodation** We will normally refer clients to CLEAR (or Family Mosaic) who are better able to advise on procedures and respond to difficulties with benefits and accommodation. Temporary emergency accommodation is available in Southampton for those eligible for benefits (eg Salvation Army, Patrick House, YMCA) and food/showers/laundry are available at Two Saints.

SWVG MAG (Christine Knight)

December 2016, adopted 9/1/17

Updated May 2017

2. Post Leave to Remain Support: policy for supporting NRPF clients

SWVG will consider providing financial support to any client who is granted leave to remain on the basis of “No Recourse to Public Funds” (NRPF).

New clients will only be considered if they live in Southampton, have made an asylum claim and are referred to us.

Any client requesting support will be subject to a detailed assessment. They must have applied for NRPF reversal at the earliest possible time after hearing that they have no recourse to public funds.

If ASSIST support is agreed, the maximum period is 12 weeks for accommodation and 26 weeks for subsistence (currently £35 p wk for an adult and £15 p wk for dependent children).

Clients getting this support will be provided with a visitor who will work with them to explore options for finding employment and sources of alternative support. The visitor will also help them to consider the possibility of return to their country of origin.

ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The assessment will be carried out using a standard set of questions with a form to record responses.

If the client does not meet our criteria based on the initial questions and/or has no evidence that an asylum claim has been made, the assessment process should be stopped.

If our criteria are met the process should be completed. This may include asking the applicant for information regarding their income and expenditure.

Questions to be used in assessing a client for post leave to remain support

INITIAL

How long have you been living in Southampton?

When did you apply for Asylum? Do you have evidence of your claim?

When were you granted LTR and how long was it granted for?

Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group *Working with asylum seekers and refugees*
Patrons: Miriam Margolyes OBE, John Pilkington, Dr Shirley Firth **Registered charity:** 1103093

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Email: admin@swvg-refugees.org.uk **Telephone:** 0750 317 6350 **Web:** www.swvg-refugees.org.uk

MAIN

What were you expecting once you had been given LTR?

What do/did you plan to do once you had been granted LTR?

How did you try to get a reversal of NRPF and do you have any evidence for this

What financial or other support do you have from family or friends living locally?

Are there family or friends living in another part of UK who might support you?

If a single parent, has other parent been approached for support and if so with what result

Have you tried to find work and with what success?

What skills, qualifications and experience do you have and what sort of employment would you like to have?

What health problems do you have that might prevent you from finding work or restrict the type of work?

What success have you had in getting help from other agencies/ organisations (eg Social Services, church, etc)? If so, which?

What do you think are your most important needs at this time?

Do you have a plan to pay the fees due when you are required to renew your leave to remain?

If the political situation changes and/or your air fare was paid, would you consider returning to your country?

SWVG MAG (Christine Knight)

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