



# Children and Families Seeking Asylum in the UK

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#### **Contents**

Key findings

Policy implications

Main findings

Conclusion

Background, acknowledgements and further information

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## **Key findings**

- Much of the recent debate on asylum seekers in the UK focuses on adults, yet evidence from Home Office data suggests that a significant proportion of asylum seekers are children and their parents or carers.
- A significant number of children apply for asylum in the UK. Between 2010 and 2020, 86,533 children claimed asylum in the UK: both those applying with their families and those applying as unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC). Children made up almost a quarter (23%) of UK asylum applicants and dependents during that time.
- Most children (62,321) claimed asylum with their families, making up 17% of asylum seekers overall. The remaining 6% (24,212)<sup>1</sup> claimed asylum on their own as unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC). This briefing focuses on children who claim asylum with their families<sup>2</sup>.
- There were 5,666 children who claimed asylum with their families each year on average. The numbers of children applying with families has increased steadily since 2010 when there were 3,798 applications from children in families, peaking in 2018 and 2019 when there were over 7,000 each year. This increase is broadly in line with overall increases in asylum numbers.
- While they await the determination of their asylum claim, children and families seeking asylum in the UK have 'no recourse to public funds' (NRPF) and are generally not permitted to work. If they are destitute, they may be able to access a parallel system of support provided by the Home Office in the form of accommodation and weekly subsistence

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This figure relates to the number of unaccompanied-asylum seeking children recorded in the data as being under 18s – others are recorded as being over 18. This may be because their age has been disputed.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> For more information on unaccompanied children and young people, see quarterly statistics briefings by the Refugee Council: <a href="https://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/information/resources/children-in-the-asylum-system-aug-2021/">https://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/information/resources/children-in-the-asylum-system-aug-2021/</a>

payments of £39.63 per person. This is known as 'Asylum Support' or previously 'NASS'.

- Home Office data shows that there were 16,186 children aged under 18 living on Asylum Support at the end of December 2019, before the pandemic, making up over a third (34%) of the 47,353 individuals supported by the Home Office at that time.
- Of those, 15,363 children were on Section 95 support the main form of Asylum Support for those awaiting their claim including families with dependent children. Children made up over a third (35%) of the total 43,549 Section 95 recipients at that time, while a further 30% were adult family members (e.g. parents, adult children and other dependents). The remaining third (35% or 15,084) were single adults.
- An additional 823 children were receiving Section 4 support from the Home Office at the end of 2019. This type of support is generally provided to adults whose asylum claim has been refused but where there are obstacles preventing their return. However, children born after an asylum refusal may also be on this form of support.
- Although it was historically intended to be a temporary measure, various factors in recent years, including prior to the pandemic, have meant that the length of time that asylum seekers including children and families are spending on Asylum Support has increased. The vast majority of families with children under 18 (83%), had been on Section 95 support for over a year at the end of 2020, while 19% of families had been on support for over five years. The proportion of cases staying on support for longer has increased significantly since 2017 when less than half (46%) of cases overall were living on Section 95 support for more than a year. At that time, most families with children (60%) had

been on Section 95 support for over a year, with 13% on support for more than five years.

## Implications for current policymaking

- These findings have several policy implications which relate to reforms set out in the New Plan for Immigration<sup>3</sup> published in spring 2021 and the subsequent Nationality and Borders Bill currently making its way through parliament<sup>4</sup>. Provisions introduced by the Bill relating to the asylum process aim to 'discourage irregular entry and improve the Home Office's ability to remove those with no right to remain in the UK'. Among the measures are provisions which seek to differentiate between asylum seekers based on how they arrived in the UK<sup>5</sup>.
- Much of the debate on the planned reforms has so far focused on adults who make up the majority of asylum seekers in the UK. Yet evidence from Home Office data obtained for this research suggests that a significant proportion of asylum seekers are children and their parents or carers. Very little information is provided within the Bill and accompanying documentation on children; no comprehensive child rights impact assessment has been undertaken to consider how children will be treated or protected under the various provisions<sup>6</sup>.
- Nevertheless, provisions may affect how children and families seeking asylum in the UK are treated, including how their asylum claim will be determined, how they are housed, whether they will be subject to criminal sanctions, and the rights granted to those families recognised as refugees.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/new-plan-for-immigration

<sup>4</sup> https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3023

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Clause 10 (Differential treatment of refugees) of the Bill creates two categories of refugees, with different rights and entitlements: Group 1 and Group 2 refugees. Refugees will be classified as Group 2 if they have not come directly from a country or territory that threatens their rights under Article 1 of the Refugee Convention, and/or they have not made an immediate claim for asylum on arrival (sub-section 2). Those who have entered the UK irregularly will also have to show 'good cause' for this, or will fall into Group 2 (sub-section 3). See Explanatory Notes to the Nationality and Borders Bill: <a href="https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-02/0141/en/210141en.pdf">https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-02/0141/en/210141en.pdf</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Some consideration has been given to children within the wider Equality Impact Assessment however the limited considerations and mitigations included largely relate to unaccompanied asylum-seeking children: <a href="https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-02/0141/Nationality">https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-02/0141/Nationality</a> and Borders Bill - EIA.pdf

- For example, provisions in the Bill mean that for those recognised as refugees, the mode of arrival in the UK will determine the type of status that families are granted and their rights to settlement in the UK. In addition, some children and families will continue to be ineligible for social security support<sup>7</sup> after being granted refugee status as the provisions seek to apply 'no recourse to public funds' (NRPF) conditions to some newly recognised refugees<sup>8</sup>.
- The Bill also includes powers to house different groups of asylum seekers in an 'accommodation centre'. The intention is to 'accommodate particular cohorts of asylum seekers and failed asylum seekers who are in need of support, in order to resolve their immigration status more efficiently and facilitate their removal where their claim has been refused or deemed to be inadmissible'9. However, advocates have raised concerns about the suitability of this kind of accommodation based on current practice<sup>10</sup>. It is unclear yet whether these provisions will also apply to families with dependent children and if so, how this might affect their needs and rights such as access to education and health care, or how these measures would interact with duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- Finally, the New Plan for Immigration proposes to 'consult with Local Authority partners and stakeholders on implementing the provisions of the Immigration Act 2016 to remove support from failed asylumseekers who have no right to remain in the UK'. Currently, families

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Asylum seeking families already have no recourse to public funds while they are awaiting their asylum determination (set out under Section 115 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999) but if they are destitute, they are able to access some subsistence, housing and other support through the Home Office: <a href="https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN01909/SN01909.pdf">https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN01909/SN01909.pdf</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Clause 10 sub-section 5 gives powers to treat Group 2 refugees differently, including on the amount of leave they are granted, requirements that the refugee must meet in order to be given indefinite leave to remain, whether they are given recourse to public funds and whether leave to enter or remain is given to members of the refugee's family.

<sup>9</sup> Clause 11: https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-02/0141/en/210141en.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Refugee Council's written evidence to Nationality and Borders Bill 2021-22 – Public Bill Committee: <a href="https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/42821/documents/702">https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/42821/documents/702</a>

with children (under 18) are supported on Section 95 support while they await their asylum determination and can continue to receive this support to avoid destitution if their claim has been refused and they exhaust their appeal rights. This is in recognition of the need to protect children's safety and welfare. But reforms aim to change the way in which families with children are supported when their asylum claim is refused.

• Though children are not a majority, they nevertheless form a significant proportion of the asylum-seeking population – both unaccompanied and accompanied children. As the data in this briefing shows, children form almost a quarter of all asylum applicants and dependents over the last decade, and the majority of these are children seeking protection with their families. The Secretary of State has a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children affected by asylum and immigration policy<sup>11</sup>. Reforms need to consider how children will be affected.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> This duty is set out under Section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009 and in the accompanying Every Child Matters guidance: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/every-child-matters-statutory-quidance">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/every-child-matters-statutory-quidance</a>

#### Children and families seeking asylum in the UK

The findings set out in this briefing are part of a wider study aimed at better understanding the needs, experiences and outcomes of children who are seeking asylum in the UK with their families and are receiving Asylum Support via the Home Office. The research also examines how employment restrictions on asylum seekers affect children within families.

While they await the determination of their asylum claim, children and families seeking asylum in the UK generally have 'no recourse to public funds' (NRPF) which means they are prevented from accessing most mainstream benefits and they are generally not permitted to work<sup>12</sup>. If they are destitute, they may be able to access a parallel system of support provided by the Home Office in the form of accommodation<sup>13</sup> and weekly subsistence payments of £39.63 per person including per child. This is known as 'Asylum Support' or previously 'NASS'. The support regime includes some extra payments and access to some public services<sup>14</sup>.

There is limited direct research with children who seek protection in the UK with their families and little is known about the scale and profile of this group of children. Although quarterly government statistics tell us how many children apply for asylum each year, there is no publicly available data on how many then go on to apply for or receive support from the Home Office via the asylum support system. There is also no information on how long children are on support for and there is very limited demographic information about children and families in this context, including what proportion of families are single-parent households, whether family members have a disability or any long-term health issues and consequently how many children may have caring responsibilities. We also

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Home Office guidance on permission to work and volunteering for asylum seekers<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/handling-applications-for-permission-to-take-employment-instruction/permission-to-work-and-volunteering-for-asylum-seekers-accessible-version">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/handling-applications-for-permission-to-take-employment-instruction/permission-to-work-and-volunteering-for-asylum-seekers-accessible-version</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> This is provided through dispersal accommodation, usually outside of the South East region. Accommodation is furnished with utilities and Council Tax covered.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> The basic support package is detailed here: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/asylum-support/what-youll-get">https://www.gov.uk/asylum-support/what-youll-get</a> and further information can be found in the latest Home Office review of support rates: Report on the Allowances Paid to Asylum Seekers and Failed Asylum Seekers 2020

know very little about children's outcomes in this context, for example their educational and health outcomes, and how these change over time.

Therefore, part of this research aims to contribute to the knowledge gap and provide some information about children in this context. The analysis below uses statistics from quarterly Home Office releases which provide some data on asylum applications and support provided<sup>15</sup>. Additional data were obtained through Freedom of Information Act (FOI) requests to the Home Office, which allow members of the public as well as researchers to request recorded information held by public authorities<sup>16</sup>. The analysis combines data from these sources to help address some of the current gaps in our understanding.

#### Numbers of children applying for asylum with families

There is limited publicly available data on children within the asylum system including those who are in receipt of asylum support. Published Home Office data<sup>17</sup> does provide some age breakdowns for asylum applications which show that between 2010 and 2020, 62,321 children claimed asylum with their families while an additional 24,212 children claimed asylum on their own<sup>18</sup> out of a total of 372,560 asylum applicants and their dependents. This means that there were on average 5,666 applications from children in families and 2,201 applications from unaccompanied asylum-seeking children each year between 2010-20<sup>19</sup>.

Overall children made up almost a quarter (23% - 86,533 out of 372,560 in total) of asylum seekers and the majority of these were children who were claiming asylum with their families either as dependents or main

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/asylum-and-resettlement-datasets

https://www.gov.uk/make-a-freedom-of-information-request

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> The analysis is based on detailed asylum statistics published by the Home Office as part of its quarterly statistics for the year ending June 2021 (Table Asy\_D01: Asylum applications raised, by nationality, age, sex, UASC, applicant type, and location of application): <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/asylum-and-resettlement-datasets#asylum-applications-decisions-and-resettlement">https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/asylum-applications-decisions-and-resettlement</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> This figure relates to the number of unaccompanied-asylum seeking children (UASC) recorded in the data as being under 18s – others are recorded as being over 18. This may be because their age has been disputed. <sup>19</sup> This does not include unaccompanied asylum-seeking children who are recorded in the data as being over 18

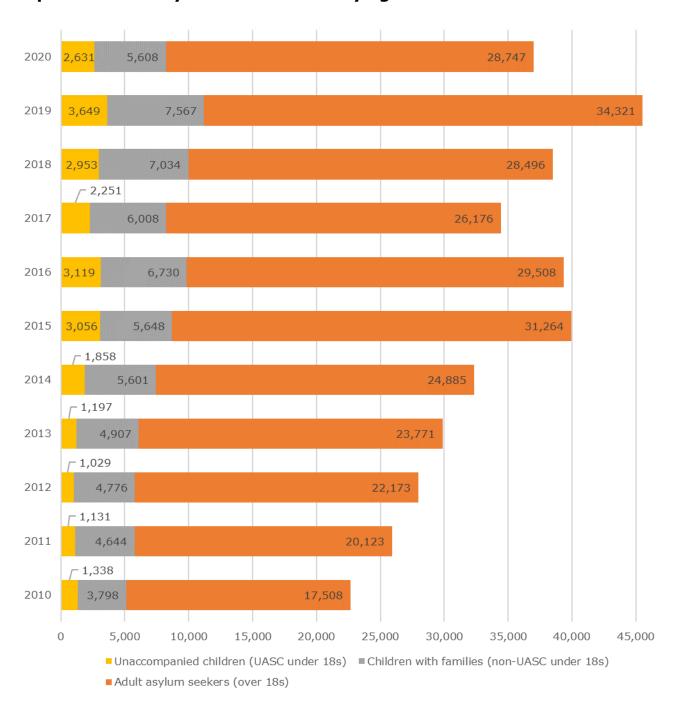
applicants. Children in families made up almost a fifth (17% - or 62,321) of all asylum applicants and dependents on average during this time period. The remaining 6% (24,212) were unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.<sup>20</sup>

The proportion of asylum seekers and dependents that are children has remained relatively consistent between 2010 and 2020 – between 20% to 26%. As Figure 1 below highlights, the number of children applying with families has increased steadily since 2010 when there were 3,798 applications from children, peaking in 2018 and 2019 when there were over 7,000 each year. The proportion of children claiming with their families has remained between 14-18% of the overall number of asylum seekers claiming each year, suggesting that the increases are broadly in line with overall asylum numbers.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> As this research is about children and young people's experiences of asylum support, the focus is on children who are claiming asylum with their families. Although unaccompanied asylum-seeking children may find themselves accommodated within the Asylum Support system if their age is being disputed, they should generally be supported by local authorities as looked after children under Children Act 1989 provisions. Some may end up on Asylum Support as adults having left care.

Figure 1: Number of asylum applications from main applicants and dependents each year broken down by age



Source: Home Office quarterly immigration statistics published in August 2021. Author's analysis of data from detailed table Asy\_D01: Asylum applications raised, by nationality, age, sex, UASC, applicant type, and location of application: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/asylum-and-resettlement-datasets#asylum-applications-decisions-decisions-decis

#### **Numbers of children on Asylum Support (Section 95 & Section 4)**

There are currently no published breakdowns in Home Office statistics of how many children and families apply for and are granted Asylum Support each year (a flow measure) and how many are supported at any one time (a stock measure), though some disaggregated data for single adults and family groups are provided. Data obtained under an FOI request for this research reveals that at the end of December 2019, there were 16,186 children (under 18) living on Asylum Support provided by the Home Office, making up over a third (34%) of the 47,353 individuals supported at that time<sup>21</sup>.

Of those, 15,363 children were on Section 95 support – the main source of support for those awaiting their asylum determination - making up over a third (35%) of support recipients at that time. <sup>22</sup> Families with dependent children under 18 can continue to receive Section 95 support if their asylum claim is refused while single adults or families without children would normally have support terminated. They may be able to access Section 4 support which is provided to those who have been refused asylum where there are obstacles preventing their return. <sup>23</sup>

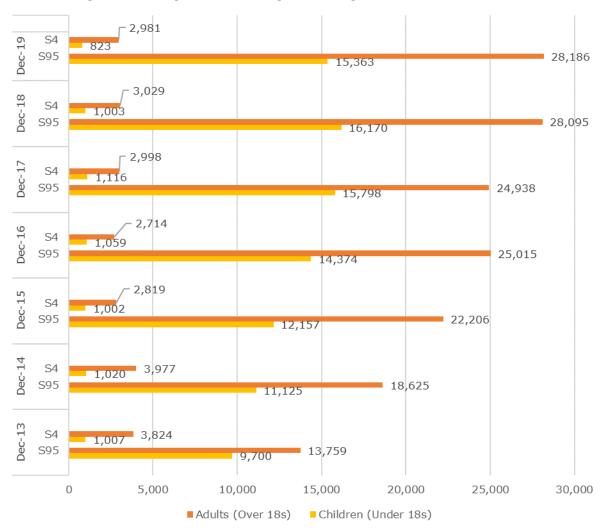
An additional 823 children were receiving Section 4 support from the Home Office at the end of 2019, making up 22% of recipients on this type of support. A significant number of these are likely to be children born after an asylum refusal.

 $<sup>^{21}</sup>$  These figures do not include children and families supported under various resettlement schemes, only those claiming asylum within the UK.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Section 95 support is usually provided in the form of weekly subsistence payments which can be taken out as cash and dispersed accommodation outside of the South East region, which is furnished with utilities and Council Tax covered. Some additional payments and in-kind support also provided. Families can opt to receive subsistence payments only if they are able to access accommodation from others (e.g. friends or family).
<sup>23</sup> This support consists of accommodation and subsistence, and recipients are required to be in accommodation provided by the Home Office. The base rate support is now the same as Section 95 – at £39.63 per week, which was not the case prior to October 2020 and payments can only be made using a card. Some of the extra payments differ for families on Section 4 support, for example the maternity grant for expectant mothers which is £250 on Section 4 support and £300 on Section 95 support: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/asylum-support/what-youll-get">https://www.gov.uk/asylum-support/what-youll-get</a>. Individuals and families may be provided less in subsistence payments if they are in accommodation where food and toiletries are provided: <a href="https://media.refugeecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/04120727/27.10.20-Chief-Executives.pdf">https://media.refugeecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/04120727/27.10.20-Chief-Executives.pdf</a>

Although the number of Asylum Support recipients has increased steadily since 2013, children have remained between 34 - 38% of support recipients overall. Figure 2 shows the data for the years ending 2013 to 2019.

Figure 2: Asylum support recipients on Section 95 and Section 4 support at the end of each calendar year by whether they are children (under 18) or adults (over 18)<sup>24</sup>



Source: Data obtained from the Home Office through FOI request.

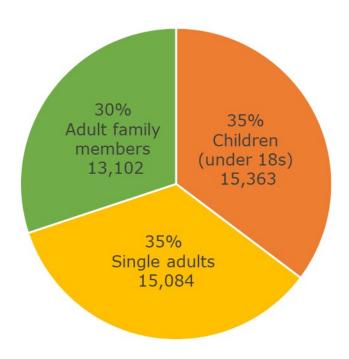
24

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> The data includes main applicants and dependents. Figures reflect the number of people in receipt of support, as at the end of the period rather than the total supported throughout the period. Section 95 provides support for asylum seekers who have an asylum claim or appeal outstanding and families who have been refused asylum but who had children in their household when their appeal rights were exhausted. Section 4 support is available when an asylum application has been finally determined as refused but they are destitute and there are reasons that temporarily prevent them from leaving the UK. A new Asylum Support casework system was introduced from 12 March 2018. As part of the transition to the new system, work to ensure the data meet the standards required of National Statistics is ongoing. Therefore, data for 2018 onwards should be considered provisional until this transitional work has been completed.

#### **Composition of Section 95 recipients**

There is a perception within public narratives that the vast majority of asylum seekers in the UK and those in receipt of support are single adults. However, although children are not themselves a majority, families are a significant proportion of the supported population. FOI data presented in Figure 3 suggests that almost two-thirds (65%) of Section 95 asylum support recipients in December 2019 were family members while the remaining third (35% or 15,084) were single adults. Of the total 43,549 Section 95 recipients at that time, 15,363 (35%) were children aged under 18 while a further 30% were adult family members (over 18) such as parents, spouses, adult children and other dependent adults in the household.

Figure 3: Proportions of Section 95 support recipients at the end of 2019<sup>25</sup>



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Section 95 is the main form of financial support for asylum seekers while they are waiting for their asylum determination. Families with dependent children are currently able to remain on Section 95 support after an asylum refusal. This support continues until children turn 18, until they have left the UK or if they have any obstacles preventing their return, until they resolve their status.

#### **Length of time on Asylum Support**

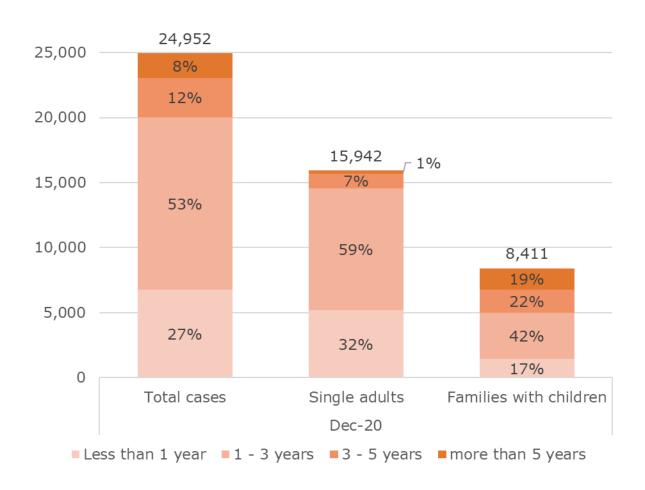
Historically a justification for providing lower levels of support to asylum seeking families has been that support is intended to be temporary<sup>26</sup>. Data on how long individuals and families are on asylum support for are not publicly available. However, the FOI data obtained for this research reveals that most support recipients, including families with dependent children, are on Asylum Support for one year or more and the proportion of those on support for longer has increased considerably since 2017.

As Figure 4 shows, at the end of 2020, 73% of all Section 95 cases had been on this support for over a year but the proportion was highest for families with children. The vast majority of families with children under 18 (83%), had been on Section 95 support for over a year while 19% of families had been on support for over five years. A slightly smaller proportion - over two-thirds (67%) of single adults had been on Section 95 support for more than one year with 1% of single adults on this support for over five years.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> Kaye, M., & Williams, R. (2010). At the end of the line - Restoring the integrity of the UK's asylum system.

Figure 4: Number of cases in receipt of Section 95 support at the end of 2020 broken down by case type<sup>27</sup>



Source: Data provided by the Home Office through FOI requests

As Figure 5 below shows, the proportions of cases staying on support for longer has increased significantly since 2017 when less than half (46%) of cases overall were living on Section 95 support for more than a year. At that time, most families with children (60%) had been on Section 95 support for over a year with 13% on support for more than five years. In comparison, just over a third (36%) of single adults were on support for more than a year and 8% for more than five years at the end of 2017. More detailed breakdowns are available upon request.

 $<sup>^{27}</sup>$  The graph shows comparative breakdowns for single adult cases and cases involving families with children. Cases involving families without children (under 18s) in the household are included in the overall case number and account for 2% of the overall cases. Therefore, the breakdowns by length of time on support have not been included in this graph.

Figure 5: Proportion of cases in receipt of Section 95 support at the end of each calendar year who have been on support for more than one year and more than five years, by case type<sup>28</sup>



Source: Data provided by the Home Office through FOI requests

The fact that families with children remain on Section 95 for longer than single adults is in part because currently families can continue to receive Section 95 support even when they have been refused asylum in recognition of the need to protect children's welfare and safety. In contrast,

<sup>28</sup> Data provided by FOI request. The total number of cases also includes families without dependent children – e.g. couples without children or families with adult children or other dependent adults. These make up about 2% of cases on Section 95 support at the end of each year between 2017 and 2020 and so have not been included as a breakdown. For more information, please contact the author.

adults without dependent children under the age of 18 in the household would have their support terminated after they have exhausted their appeal rights<sup>29</sup>. These individuals and households may be able to access Section 4 support when they are destitute and there are barriers preventing their return<sup>30</sup>.

The increase in the proportion of overall cases remaining on Section 95 for longer at the end of 2020 also in part reflects the change in policy during the pandemic, which allowed refused asylum-seekers and those acquiring refugee status or other protection to remain in asylum accommodation and in receipt of support to prevent homelessness and destitution<sup>31</sup>. This was an important part of a public health response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

However, the increases to the time that individuals and families are spending on Section 95 support began before the pandemic, highlighting other factors such as the increases in the length of time taken to determine asylum claims. As Refugee Council's analysis shows, the number of people awaiting an initial decision for more than a year increased almost tenfold from 3,588 people in 2010 to 33,016 in 2020. The waiting times for children increased even more steeply: the number of children awaiting an initial decision for more than a year increased more than twelve-fold from 563 children in 2010 to 6,887 in 2020. Almost 500 children had been waiting for more than three years for an initial decision at the end of December 2020, and 55 of these had been waiting for more than five years which as the author notes is a significant proportion of the child's life<sup>32</sup>. These figures refer both to unaccompanied children and those who are making claims as part of a family, therefore may in part reflect the differences between children's circumstances and how decisions are processed.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> This would include families with adult children (over 18s) or other adult dependents in the household.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> Set out under 3(2) (a)-(e) of the Immigration and Asylum (Provision of Accommodation to Failed Asylum-Seekers) Regulations 2005: <a href="https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2005/930/regulation/3/made">https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2005/930/regulation/3/made</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> See letter from Chris Philp MP Minister for Immigration Compliance and the Courts on 27 March 2020: http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/27.03.20-Chris-Philp-Letter.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> Pg 10, Hewett, A. (2021). Living in Limbo: A decade of delays in the UK asylum system: https://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Living-in-Limbo-A-decade-of-delays-in-the-UK-Asylum-system-July-2021.pdf

Nevertheless, the fact that children are spending many years - often a significant proportion of their childhood - on very low levels of financial support, is cause for concern particularly given the effects that living on low income has on a range of children's outcomes including their educational attainment, social and behavioural development, and health outcomes<sup>33</sup>.

#### **Conclusion**

Despite a public narrative focused on adult asylum seekers, evidence shows that children form a significant proportion of the asylum-seeking population, whether they are unaccompanied or seeking protection with their families. Children made up almost a quarter of all asylum applicants over the last decade, and the majority of these are children seeking protection with their families. Children and their parents and carers make up the majority of those being supported by the Home Office under the asylum support regime, often spending several years on this type of support.

Wide-ranging reforms under the Nationality and Borders Bill and the New Plan for Immigration are likely to have significant implications for children including those claiming asylum with their families. International children's rights obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and domestic protections such as the duty of the Secretary of State to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children affected by asylum and immigration policy<sup>34</sup>, mean that the implications of these reforms on children's rights and welfare need to be considered.

33 Cooper, K., & Stewart, K. (2013). Does Money Affect Children's Outcomes? A systematic review: https://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/default/files/jrf/migrated/files/money-children-outcomes-full.pdf Cooper, K., & Stewart, K. (2018). Money matters: does money affect children's outcomes? A systematic review

update: http://sticerd.lse.ac.uk/dps/case/cp/casepaper203.pdf

 $<sup>^{34}</sup>$  This duty is set out under Section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009 and in the accompanying Every Child Matters guidance: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/every-childmatters-statutory-quidance

#### **Background information and acknowledgements**

This briefing is part of a mixed-methods doctoral research project by Ilona Pinter looking at the needs, experiences and outcomes of children and families living on Asylum Support provided by the Home Office in the UK. The research also looks at how employment restrictions affect children in families. The research is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC).

Ilona would like to thank members of her research advisory group, her supervisors Dr Tania Burchardt and Dr Isabel Shutes, and Dr Tammy Campbell for their advice and feedback on these findings.

She is happy to be contacted with any comments, questions, feedback or input into the overall research project. Please email her on: <a href="mailto:i.pinter@lse.ac.uk">i.pinter@lse.ac.uk</a>

#### **Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion**

The Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion (CASE) is a multi-disciplinary research centre based at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), within the Suntory and Toyota International Centres for Economics and Related Disciplines (STICERD). Our focus is on exploration of different dimensions of social disadvantage, particularly from longitudinal and neighbourhood perspectives, and examination of the impact of public policy.

In addition to our CASEbriefs, we produce a discussion paper series (CASEpapers), and reports from various conferences and activities in CASEreports. All these publications are available to download free from our website. Limited printed copies are available on request.

For further information on the work of the Centre, please contact the Centre Manager, Annie-Rose Nicholas, on:

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