

# No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) Funding Policy May 2020



## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1. No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) is an immigration condition restricting access to public funds, including many mainstream benefits such as welfare and housing.
- 1.2. As a result of this restriction, families and individuals may have a right to financial support (accommodation and subsistence payments) from the local authority in order to avoid destitution or because of complex health needs. In these cases, the local authority has a duty to support the accommodation and subsistence costs of residents with NRPF.
- 1.3. This document explains what Coventry City Council will pay to meet essential living needs.

## **2. Payments**

- 2.1. Home Office Recommend rate is £37.75 Per Carer (£76.50 for a couple). Coventry have aligned their payments to this from May 2020.
- 2.2. £21 per Child, Coventry have aligned this payment to equate to Child Benefit Rate the same as any other Child.
- 2.3. In addition, Coventry City Council will make additional payments of £5 for a baby under the age of 12 months per week. Pregnant women and children aged between one and three years will receive £3 extra per week.

## **3. Why have we set these rates?**

- 3.1. Coventry City Council provides weekly subsistence payments to individuals and families who have no recourse to public funds and qualify for social services support.
- 3.2. Coventry City Council subsistence rates for Carers are in line with rates defined by the Secretary of State for the Home Office Department for those seeking asylum, under Section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act (1999).
- 3.3. This legislation requires that provision for asylum seekers meets essential living needs. This definition is considered to be the same as the provision of Local Authority NRPF support, which is intended to be short term emergency support whilst a person's immigration status is resolved.
- 3.4. Adult payments are in line with the Home Office recommendations, and the Child payments are in line with the Child Benefit System.

#### **4. Exceptional circumstances and changes in circumstances**

4.1. Subsistence rates can be reviewed on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the NRPF Operational Lead when requested. Some exceptions to the policy are outlined below:

4.1.1. If the client has significant additional needs

4.1.2. Subsistence payments may be lower than the amount above if the client is in accommodation which provides for some essential living needs.

4.1.3. Subsistence payments will be lower if the client is in receipt of any other income – for example if in receipt of Child Benefit or Child Tax Credit this will be deducted from the subsistence payments.

4.2. If there is any change in circumstances the subsistence payment will be recalculated and updated. The policy will be made available to all clients at the start of their service with Coventry City Council.

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