

Activity Sheet 1.2

1. Schools

Asylum seekers aged under 16 are entitled to go to school free of charge. The local authority has to provide a school place for them. The local authority may be able to claim some money from central government towards the costs of providing this education.

2. Jobs

Asylum seekers are not allowed to work for their first six months in the UK. If a decision on their case has not been made by then, they can apply for the right to work and earn money.

3. Speak your own language with others

Outside the family it may be difficult for asylum seekers to find other people who speak the same language. In big cities many immigrant communities have set up support groups, sometimes with help from the local authority. A support group usually has a meeting place where asylum seekers and refugees can go to discuss their problems with other people from the same country. The support group may also offer legal advice, interpreting services, sports groups, news from their home country and various other useful facilities.

4. Money

A single adult (over 24) seeking asylum is entitled to £36.54 per week in vouchers. They may convert £10 worth of these vouchers into cash. The remaining vouchers can be spent at named shops.

5. Sports

It can be difficult for asylum seekers to play sports as they may not know what local facilities are available, and even if they did they may not be able to afford them. Some local support groups have their own sports teams. It all depends where in the country they are living and what local support groups, if any, are in their local area.

