

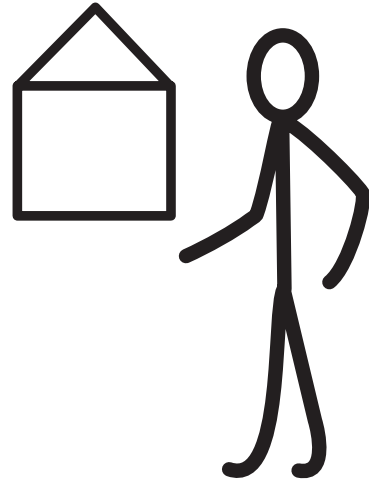
Activity Sheet 2.1

Housing for Asylum Seekers

When an asylum seeker arrives in this country, if their case cannot be dealt with very quickly, then they will be subject to one of the housing options 1–3 below.

1. If the asylum seeker has sufficient money they may seek their own accommodation.

2. If the asylum seeker has friends or family living in the UK they may stay with them.



3. If 1 or 2 are not possible for the asylum seeker, then they will be part of the Home Office dispersal programme organised by the National Asylum Support Service. The dispersal programme involves EITHER:

a) the asylum seeker being sent to live in a city outside London and the south-east, where they will be housed in private accommodation. This is because most asylum seekers live in London or the south-east, and the government thinks that these areas cannot cope with any more people.

OR

b) if there is sufficient local property then asylum seekers may be placed local housing.

If an asylum seeker has been placed in housing through the dispersal programme they must remain in that accommodation or they will lose any entitlements to housing. They may not be absent from their accommodation for more than a total of 14 nights in a period of 6 months.

Many asylum seekers not wishing to move away from London and the south-east are choosing to live with families or friends, which is causing severe pressure on families who are already living in overcrowded housing.