

CHILD SAFEGUARDING QUARTERLY UPDATE (3)

This update provides a summary of various safeguarding activity recently or currently undertaken across the Home Office that relates to migration, borders, and citizenship.

This may include, for example, information on new legislation, strategies and polices, or specific initiatives undertaken by our operational directorates - Border Force, Her Majesty's Passport Office, Immigration Enforcement, and UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI).

In collaboration with respective policy and operational leads, this update has been produced by Safeguarding Advice and Children's Champion (SACC) - a Home Office team, led by 2 professional social work advisers, responsible for ensuring the department meets its statutory child safeguarding duty under section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act. SACC also oversees the Home Office relationship with local safeguarding partnerships on matters relating to migration, borders, and citizenship.

Recruiting for the Home Office Young People's Board

SACC would appreciate your help identifying prospective participants for the Home Office Young People's Board (YPB) in England.

Established in 2021 following the independent Windrush Lessons Learned Review, the YPB is a collection of 4 participation groups (1 each in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales) for young people, aged 13-24, who meet periodically to discuss and give their views on a range of Home Office related issues that are a priority for and directly affect them. Sessions typically take place every 6-8 weeks and are facilitated by SACC, which is independent from the migration, borders, and citizenship decision-making process.

Assisted by Directors of Children's Services, we recruited an initial 25 young participants last spring, but would now appreciate your help to refresh this group. We'd be grateful, therefore, if you could please speak to members of any children's or young person's participation or advocacy groups in operation in your local area about potentially joining our YPB. We're particularly interested, at present, in those aged 13 to 21.

If you know any child or young person who might be interested, please contact Charlotte.Muttock@homeoffice.gov.uk by Friday 25 March 2022.

Border Force Safeguarding and Modern Slavery Event

Border Force held its annual Safeguarding and Modern Slavery Event in November 2021, bringing together Border Force leads from around the UK to discuss prominent issues effecting the Safeguarding and Modern Slavery network as well as share best practice and celebrate success.

This year's 2-day event, which focused on Prevention and Protection Post Covid-19, included sessions led by a range of Home Office teams (such as Border Force International, Border Force Maritime Command, Immigration Enforcement, and Modern

Slavery Unit) as well as presentations from Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, National Crime Agency, Gangmasters and Labour Abuse authority, and the Irish Garda's Border Management Unit.

SACC also delivered a short presentation on making an effective referral to a local authority or the police where Home Office staff have a concern that a child is at risk of abuse or has come to harm. This included information on the legal framework and continuum of support model as well as the guiding principles for recognising when to make a referral, sharing information, and good record keeping. The presentation also included guidance on types of abuse or harm and related signs, as well as emphasising the importance of building effective relationships with child safeguarding partners at national and local level.

Contacting SACC

Please don't hesitate to contact SACC at ChildrensChampion@homeoffice.gov.uk if you would like to learn more about the information included in this update.