

Primary Care:24 

Asylum Seekers and the NHS

Dr Mary Ryan



Definitions & differences

“An **asylum seeker** is someone who is seeking international protection but whose claim for **refugee** status has not yet been determined.

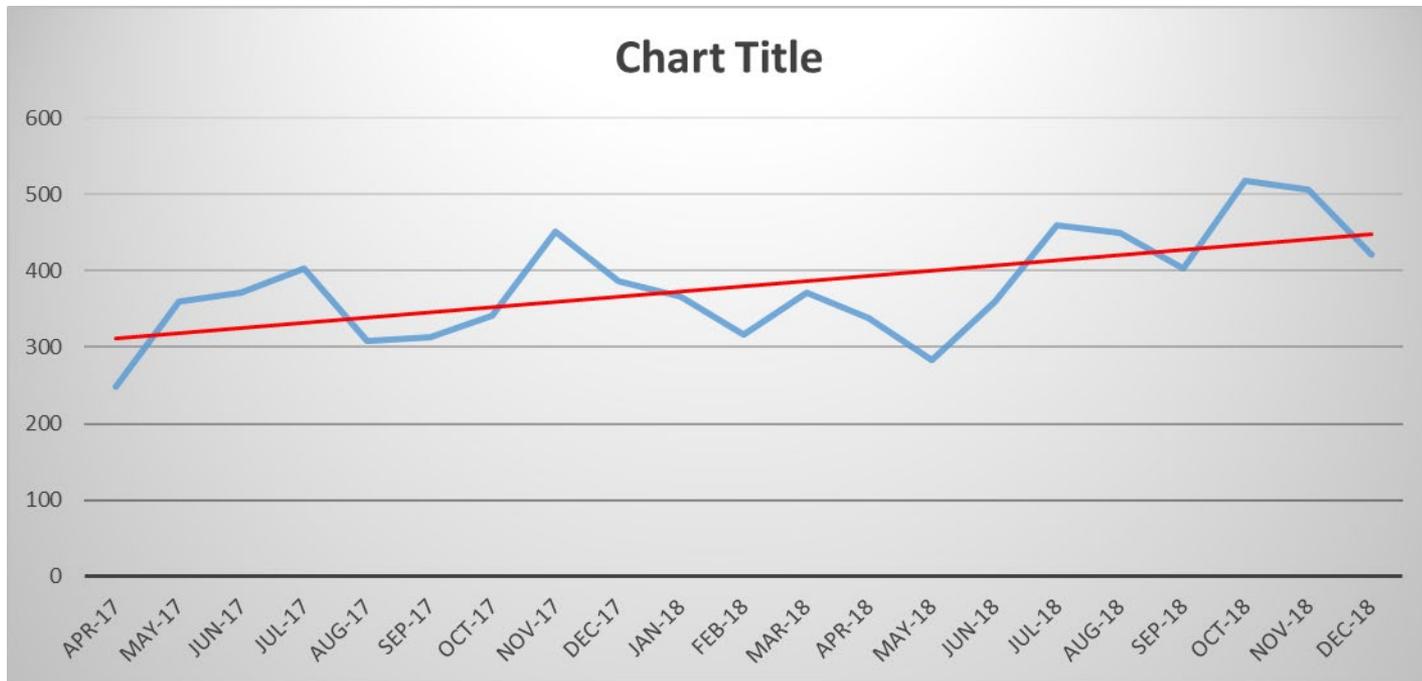
In contrast, a **refugee** is someone who has been recognised under the 1951 Convention relating to the status of **refugees** to be a **refugee**”

	Housing	Allowance	Can work?
Asylum Seeker	YES	£37.75 / person / week	NO
Refugee	NO	NO	YES

Data

- **Currently 42,808 asylum seekers in UK**
- **Average 2,254 new arrivals to UK per month**
- **400 new patients per month sent to Liverpool**
- **23% of asylum seekers will be granted refugee status**
- **40% will be granted refugee status on appeal**

Monthly arrivals April 2017-December 2018



2018 - Iran, Iraq, Eritrea, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Albania, Pakistan



Asylum Medical Practice

- **Primary (Urgent) Care 24 since 2014**
- **In hours service (only)**
- **Small core staff team**
- **Links with other allied healthcare professionals**

Network

- **7 IA units across the UK**
- **Until very recently – fragmented, not linked, isolated**
- **Public Health England now leading on bringing together**
- **Increased advocacy and lobbying potential**
- **Sharing best practice**

Our Service

- **Specific 'Service Level Agreement' with NHS England**
- **Health screening**
- **6 hours of GP time / week**
- **'Urgent, necessary and immediate care'**
- **Sign posting**

Asylum Process

Apply for asylum

Section 98 Initial
Accommodation

Section 95
Dispersed Accommodation

Granted 'refugee' status OR
Failed asylum claim

Clinical challenges

- **Mental Health**
- **Sexual Health**
- **Medications**
- **Chronic disease management**
- **Managing expectations**

Practical Challenges

- Translation services
- Temporary care
- CQC
- IT systems & links
- Location

Innovations

- **Sexual Health**
 - Linking with GUM service at RLUH

- **Blood borne virus screening**
 - Started December 2018
 - HIV , Hepatitis & latent TB
 - Facilitating earlier pick-up & referral

Innovations

- **Chaplaincy**
 - Linking people into communities that can be very important to them
- **Home Office**
 - Working with HO and Serco to identify people who should not have prolonged stays in IA e.g. person with diabetes in need of ongoing insulin and early follow up

With a Little Help From My Friends

Kindness and Respect



"No act of
kindness, no
matter how
small, is ever
wasted."
- Aesop