

# **‘Improving the Health, Wellbeing and Safeguarding Needs of Individuals Seeking Asylum in the UK**

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## **Background**

People seeking asylum are likely to have experienced significant trauma, abuse and neglect both prior, during their journey to and when in the UK. During the COVID 19 pandemic concerns were identified nationally relating to the health, wellbeing and safeguarding needs of people seeking asylum and the lack of system capability to respond effectively.

## **Aim of the study**

In response this national nurse led study was undertaken to understand the issues further and to make recommendations for improvement.

## **Methods**

A variety of methods were used including literature reviews, interviews with key stakeholders and feedback from people with lived experience. The results were then analysed by a cross sector group to identify key themes and agree recommendations for improvement.

## **Results**

The study makes recommendations that relate to ten key themes of findings; System Leadership; Access to Healthcare; Covid-19; Mental Health; Maternal Health; Children, Young People and Family Health; UASC; Disability; Safeguarding and Workforce. All the recommendations have been endorsed by the Home Office and NHS and a cross government steering group has been established to oversee their implementation.

## **Conclusions and implications**

This nurse-led study clearly demonstrates the complexities involved in meeting the health, wellbeing and safeguarding needs of people seeking asylum and has resulted in cross government, multi-sector organisations and people with lived experience coming together to agree collective policy and to implement required actions. The implications are also far reaching into the wider vulnerable migrant agenda as has already been demonstrated with the recent Afghan relocation response.