

**UNITED  
IMPACT**



**A voice for the voiceless.**



Supported  
by Project 17

## Other sources of help

- You can find your local food bank on this website: <https://www.trusselltrust.org/get-help/find-a-foodbank/>
- You can search online for baby banks in your local area.
- You can check if you are eligible for free NHS prescriptions and dental treatment on this website: <https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/check-if-youre-eligible-help>
- You can check if you are eligible to apply for Healthy Start Vouchers for fruit, milk & vitamins, on this website: <https://www.gov.uk/healthy-start>

### Produced by United Impact.

United Impact is a group of individuals with families, with NRPF experience, coming together in solidarity to raise awareness and campaign for an end to the NRPF policy. United Impact is supported by Project 17.

For more information about our work, please see:



 [@UnitedImpactUK/](https://twitter.com/UnitedImpactUK/)

 [@unitedimpact\\_uk](https://www.instagram.com/unitedimpact_uk)



## Is your family struggling with No Recourse to Public Funds?

You are not alone. This guide offers support.

**If you have no recourse to public funds, and have a child, you may be able to access support.**

### What is NRPF?

NRPF is an immigration condition preventing access to benefits and social housing. It affects many people in the UK, including those without leave to remain.

### How can it affect people?

NRPF can lead to homelessness, lack of essential resources, stress, depression, and instability.

### What support is available?

Families with NRPF who have children, may be able to access housing and financial support from their local authority under 'Section 17 of the Children Act 1989.'

# You are not alone.

## Where can you seek support?

- If your family is struggling to meet your essential needs, and/ or you are facing homelessness, you can contact your local authority's children's social services team, to request Section 17 support, or you can ask a charity if they can refer you.
- If you don't know the name of your local authority, you can find it by typing the postcode where you are in to this website:  
<https://www.gov.uk/find-local-council>
- Then you can call your local authority. You can find their phone number on their website. You might need to call the main number for the social services team, sometimes called MASH. Then you can tell them you have NRPf and want to request Section 17 support.
- Social services will not separate children from their families due to homelessness or lack of funds.
- You will need to prepare some paperwork to provide to social services, and to answer questions about your situation. Please scan the QR code at the bottom of this page to help you prepare.
- They will conduct a Child in Need assessment, irrespective of your immigration status, and may provide Section 17 support. In some cases social services might reject your request for support, so it might be helpful for you to ask a charity for help, to support throughout the process
- If social services refuse to support your family, you can seek a community care solicitor to challenge the local authority's refusal. Use this link to search for one, enter your postcode and select 'Community care':  
<https://find-legal-advice.justice.gov.uk/>
- If you are undocumented, you should seek immigration advice if possible before you seek Section 17 support, or at the same time. If you can't afford to pay for immigration advice, there are organisations that can help, see the list on the next page.



Scan the QR code to view **Project 17's detailed guide**, to help families prepare to seek support from social services.

# Don't hesitate to ask for help.

## For more information about seeking Section 17 support, you may contact the following organisations for free advice:'

- AFRIL - supports people in Lewisham, Greenwich, Southwark, Bexley and Bromley: [info@afril.org.uk](mailto:info@afril.org.uk), [www.afril.org.uk](http://www.afril.org.uk), 0208 297 4111.
- CARIS Haringey - supports families living in the London Borough of Haringey: [www.carisharingey.org.uk](http://www.carisharingey.org.uk)
- Haringey Migrant Support Centre - supports people living in London: [www.haringeymsc.org/get-help](http://www.haringeymsc.org/get-help)
- LRMN - supports people in Lewisham and neighbouring boroughs: [www.lrmn.org.uk/contact-us](http://www.lrmn.org.uk/contact-us) 020 8694 0323.
- Maternity Action - provides advice on maternity charging: [www.maternityaction.org.uk](http://www.maternityaction.org.uk)
- Project 17 - supports families across England to access support from children's social services, under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989: [www.project17.org.uk](http://www.project17.org.uk)
- The Unity Project - supports people to make applications for recourse to public funds: [www.unity-project.org.uk/contact-us](http://www.unity-project.org.uk/contact-us)
- Together With Migrant Children - supports people across England: [www.togethertomigrantchildren.org.uk](http://www.togethertomigrantchildren.org.uk) 01865 528 658
- You can search for an immigration advisor here: <https://portal.oisc.gov.uk/s/adviser-finder> Select 'Not fee charging'

