

25<sup>th</sup> November 2021

**To Chief Executives and DCSs with bridging hotels in their areas**

Thank you for your continued support for families who have arrived in your areas as part of Operation Warm Welcome. We are writing to share some useful links to mental health and wellbeing resources for these children and for teachers and others providing support to them. We are mindful that the circumstances surrounding the families' arrival in the UK may have had a significant impact on children now enrolled in schools. Teachers and other education staff may need additional support to recognise and respond to children and young people's reactions to these traumatic events and support their positive integration into the school.

You will be familiar with the *Wellbeing for Education Return (now Wellbeing for Education Recovery) Programme* which included a new national training package for local expert adaptation and delivery, to provide guidance and resources for education staff responding to the impact of Covid-19 on the wellbeing of their pupils and students. The links below reference some of these resources which remain relevant to the trauma experienced by Afghan families. Please feel free to share these links with relevant education settings and education support teams.

[CYP Psychological First Aid online course - FutureLearn](#)

This short course created by Public Health England (now the Office for Health Inequalities and Disparities) aims to support those working directly with children and young people to help them access appropriate support needed during and after crisis situations.

[MindEd Hub](#)

This site contains a series of learning paths created by specific organisations or professional groups, focusing on children's' mental wellbeing.

[UKTC \(uktraumacouncil.org\)](#)

These resources focus specifically helping professionals and carers to understand trauma and its impact on children.

[Trauma Informed Schools UK](#)

Trauma Informed Schools offer a range of training to educational settings on supporting children through trauma.

If you require more specific material relevant to Afghan families, there are several voluntary organisations who would be able to provide resources. Further information about these resources is provided in the annex below.

If you have any further queries, please contact us at [afghan.dfe@education.gov.uk](mailto:afghan.dfe@education.gov.uk)

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lindsay Harris'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L' and 'H'.

Lindsay Harris.

**Annex A - specialist support material relevant to Afghan families provided by Barnardo's, Refugee Education UK, Save the Children, and International Rescue Committee.**

- **Educational settings can apply for devices for children who have joined their school or college** under Operation Warm Welcome. Up to 6,000 devices are available for children in years 3 to 13 or in 16 to 19 education, who have arrived in the UK under Operation Warm Welcome, via the Get help with technology service. If an educational setting needs to order devices for these children, they should sign into the Get help with technology service and follow our Operation Warm Welcome guidance, which is available here: <https://get-help-with-tech.education.gov.uk/devices/operation-warm-welcome>
- **Mobile phones** (with 6-month data SIM cards), Raspberry Pi computers and tablets –are available through the *Great British Tech* appeal. You can pre-order by emailing [emily.walton-pattison@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:emily.walton-pattison@barnardos.org.uk).
- **An online orientation guide**, including details on healthcare, education, work and references to other forms of support: <https://afghanistan.barnardos.org.uk>
- LAs looking to upskill hotel staff to help them understand the basics of safeguarding can refer them to an **online training module** developed by Barnardo's; please contact [nick.whiteside@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:nick.whiteside@barnardos.org.uk) for more information.
- **The Boloh helpline** (0800 151 2605), originally developed during the early days of the pandemic, is a support line which delivers help, support and therapies in community languages, including Pashto and Dari.
- **REUK's educational welcome pack for newly arrived Afghan children** includes key information about the education system and how to access it, a welcome to school and classrooms for children and lots of other sources of support, including helpful charities, resources, courses, and interpretation services. [Download from REUK's website](#) in English, Pashto, and Dari.
- **REUK's training "Supporting the Educational Needs of Afghan Refugee Children"** draws on recent research into the displacement of young Afghans to explain the educational implications for students with a focus on barriers to their progress and achievement. Outlines practical strategies schools/teachers can adopt to overcome these challenges shares details of existing and latest resources that can help schools engage with Afghan families and develop their policies and practices. [Sign up to REUK's mailing list](#) to receive information about upcoming dates or [fill in this enquiry form](#) to discuss your bespoke training needs with the REUK team.

- **Refugees and forced migration: teaching resources.** [This page](#) contains ideas and resources for schools who want to teach their students about refugees and create cultures of welcome (organised by key stage and topic).
- **REUK's paper on the impact of educational achievement on Afghan refugee youth's integration and wellbeing in the UK.** [Research](#) conducted by REUK's team for UNU-Wider which explores the links between young Afghans' education and its impact on their socioeconomic outcomes.
- **REUK's research and resources on refugee children's education**
  - [Practitioner advice sheets](#) for those supporting young refugees' transitions to further and higher education.
  - [Research](#) into the challenges facing child refugees' educational access and progression, and best practice examples of how to enable them to thrive in schools.
- REUK are developing a **resource pack** for teachers on supporting Afghan (and other) refugee children, a fact sheet on 'what you need to know about education in Afghanistan' and other training, resources and practical responses to support Afghan children's education and wellbeing in the UK. [Sign up to the REUK mailing list](#) to find out more when they are available or [complete this form](#) with specific enquiries.
- **Save the Children resources to support Afghan children and their families**

[Mental health and psychosocial support toolkit](#)

[Doing what matters in times of stress](#)

[Home-based psychosocial wellbeing activities for children \(English\)](#)

[Home-based psychosocial wellbeing activities for children \(Pashto\)](#)

[Home-based psychosocial wellbeing activities for children \(Dari\)](#)

- **International Rescue Committee** – Supporting Afghan students in schools & youth programmes. This [brief](#) is designed to prepare educators to support children arriving from Afghanistan.