

# Improving education outcomes for displaced 16–19 year olds in Oxfordshire

## EXISTING DATA AND LIMITATIONS

Authors: Mihnea Cuibus & Lucy Leon

Since 2021, Oxfordshire has seen a significant increase in its population of recently arrived children and young people arriving with their families through the UK's bespoke humanitarian pathways from Afghanistan, Hong Kong and Ukraine. Oxfordshire County Council has identified several key challenges for older children aged 16–19 across these three cohorts in accessing education, employment, training and wider support to meet their aims and aspirations. As part of a [research programme](#) commissioned by Oxford Migration Partnership to improve education outcomes for displaced young people aged 16–19, this briefing analyses existing secondary data to build a clearer picture of the numbers of young people who may benefit from targeted support.

## Numbers of the overall population on the three schemes living in Oxfordshire

Whilst there are issues with capturing accurate and reliable data on a mobile population that may be arriving into one local authority but eventually settling in another, the South East Strategic Partnership for Migration (SESPM) provide an overview of migration [data](#) for county and district councils across the South-East of England. Drawing on the SESPM data dashboard, Home Office Immigration Statistics, a Migration Observatory survey of BN(O) status holders and Freedom of Information requests to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), we can estimate numbers of people living in Oxfordshire under the three humanitarian pathways. However, there are multiple caveats to these estimates as detailed in the footnotes below.

The data for Afghan nationals on the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) scheme and Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS)<sup>1</sup> and Ukrainians on the Ukraine Sponsorship scheme is also broken down by district council, however it is not possible to estimate this for the Hong Kong BN(O) scheme:

	Oxfordshire County Council	Cherwell District Council	Oxford City Council	South Oxfordshire District Council	Vale of White Horse District Council	West Oxfordshire District Council
Afghan schemes (ARAP + ACRS) <sup>2</sup>	734	184	104	46	336	64
Hong Kong BN(O) scheme (estimates) <sup>3</sup>	2,449	–	–	–	–	–
Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme (Homes for Ukraine) <sup>4</sup>	2,638	408	458	780	528	464
Ukraine Family Scheme (estimates) <sup>5</sup>	1,004	155	175	299	197	176

1 In December 2024, the Home Office announced that from 2025 onwards, the Afghan schemes will be streamlined into a single Afghan Resettlement Programme ([Home Office, 2024](#)).

2 Data as of 30 September 2024. Source: Home Office Immigration Statistics, Table Reg\_01.

3 Figure based on Migration Observatory Survey of Hong Kong BN(O) status holders, which estimates that around 1.55% of BN(O) arrivals were in Oxfordshire County Council. Out of a total of 158,000 arrivals by 30 September 2024, it results in an estimate of 2,449 arrivals. Other estimates are similar. A British Future survey shows around 1.4% of all BN(O) arrivals were to Oxfordshire County Council (which would imply around 2,212 arrivals). The South-East Strategic Partnership for Migration Dashboard estimated a total of 2,985 arrivals in Oxfordshire County Council.

4 Data as of 15 September 2024. Source: MHCLG FOI 2024/20413.

5 Estimate provided by the South-East Strategic Partnership for Migration (SESPM) Dashboard, accessed 17 July 2024. The dashboard is no longer publicly accessible. The SESPM data on the Ukraine Family Scheme has meanwhile been discontinued because of concerns about accuracy. There is no official data on Family Scheme arrivals by local areas. Assuming the same geographic distribution of arrivals as under the Sponsorship Scheme, we obtain a similar estimate of 988 arrivals in OCC.

## Numbers of children on the three schemes in Oxfordshire

Whilst the data above provides an indication of the overall number of people in Oxfordshire who have arrived through the three humanitarian schemes, it does not provide an indication of the number of children and young people. Very limited data is publicly available on the number of children and young people arriving on the humanitarian routes:

- The Home Office [immigration statistics](#) only provide an overview of the total number of people on the Afghan resettlement schemes resettled in each local authority, not the number of children.
- The Department for Education previously published [data](#) on the number of children from outside of the UK being offered school places. 45 children from Afghanistan, 49 children from Hong Kong and 155 children from Ukraine were offered a secondary school place in September 2022. However the data has not been updated since September 2022 and is only aggregated into primary and secondary school, not by age.

As a result, we do not know the number of children and the breakdown by age. However, drawing on Home Office Immigration statistics, Freedom of Information requests and a Migration Observatory survey of BN(O) status holders, we make the following estimates of the number of children on the three schemes in Oxfordshire:

	Aged 0–15	Aged 16–19	Total number of children	Total number of people
Afghan schemes (ARAP + ACRS) <sup>6</sup>	–	>58	396 <sup>7</sup>	734
Hong Kong BN(O) scheme (estimates) <sup>8</sup>	416	282	698	2,449
Ukraine Sponsorship (Home for Ukraine) Scheme <sup>9</sup>	609	212	821	2,638
Ukraine Family Scheme (estimates)	–	–	521 <sup>10</sup>	1,004

## Numbers of children on the Ukrainian Sponsorship Scheme in Oxfordshire in comparison to other local authorities

For the Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme, where we received detailed age breakdowns from the authorities, we can also look at the distribution within Oxfordshire of young Ukrainians aged 16–19 who arrived under the Sponsorship Scheme. Of the 212 total arrivals in the county, most were in South Oxfordshire (68), followed by Vale of White Horse (39), Cherwell, West Oxfordshire (36), and Oxford City (32).

Relative to comparable local authorities in England, Oxfordshire received many Ukrainians aged 16–19 under the Sponsorship Scheme, ranking fourth. Only Surrey, Kent, and Hampshire saw more arrivals of Ukrainians in this age group.

<sup>6</sup> Total data as of 30 September 2024. Sources: Home Office Immigration Statistics, Table Reg\_01 and Emails from Oxfordshire County Council, Oxford City Council and West Oxfordshire District Council. Oxfordshire County Council confirmed by email that 38 young people aged 16–18 were in Transitional Service Family Accommodation in 2024. However this is a significant underestimate of the total number of young people across the county as the county council do not hold data on the number of people living in lower-tier local authorities. Additional information was provided by email in 2025 by two of the five lower-tier local authorities, confirming that as of February 2025, 20 Afghan young people aged 16–19 are living in Oxford City Council and West Oxfordshire District Council.

<sup>7</sup> This is obtained by assuming that the share of under-18 arrivals in Oxfordshire is the same as the national average of 54%.

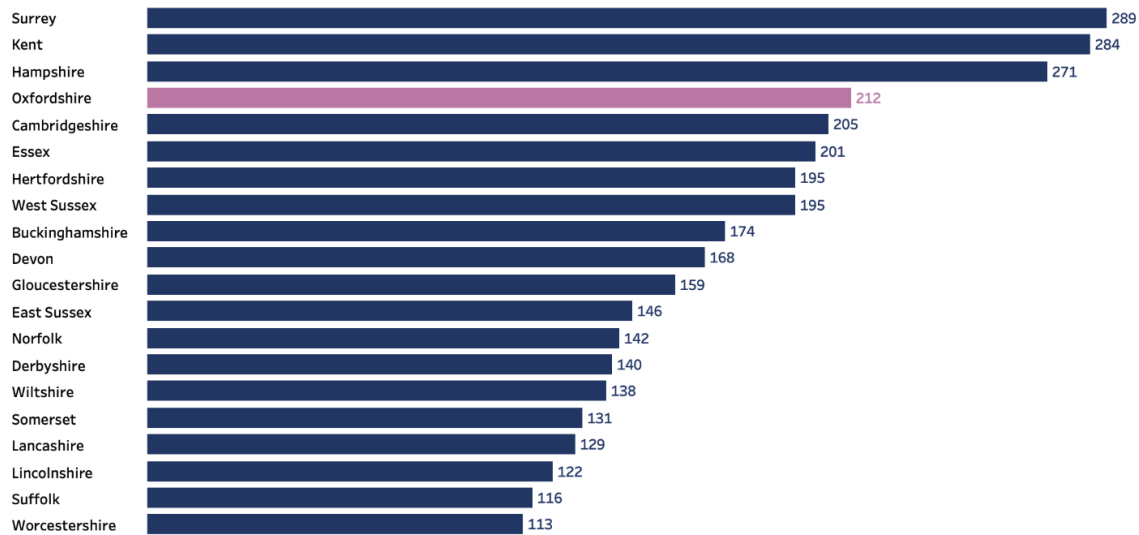
<sup>8</sup> Based on the Migration Observatory survey of BN(O) Status Holders in 2024, around 17% of arrivals in OCC were aged 0–15, and around 11.3% of arrivals were aged 16–19.

<sup>9</sup> Data as of 15 September 2024. Source: MHCLG FOI 2024/20413.

<sup>10</sup> This is obtained by assuming that the share of under-18 arrivals in Oxfordshire was the same as the national average of 25%.

## Oxfordshire ranks fourth among local authorities by the number of Ukrainians aged 16-19 it received under the Sponsorship Scheme

Number of arrivals aged 16-19 under the Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme, by upper tier local authority, as of 15 September 2024



Source: FOI MHCLG FOI 2024/20413.

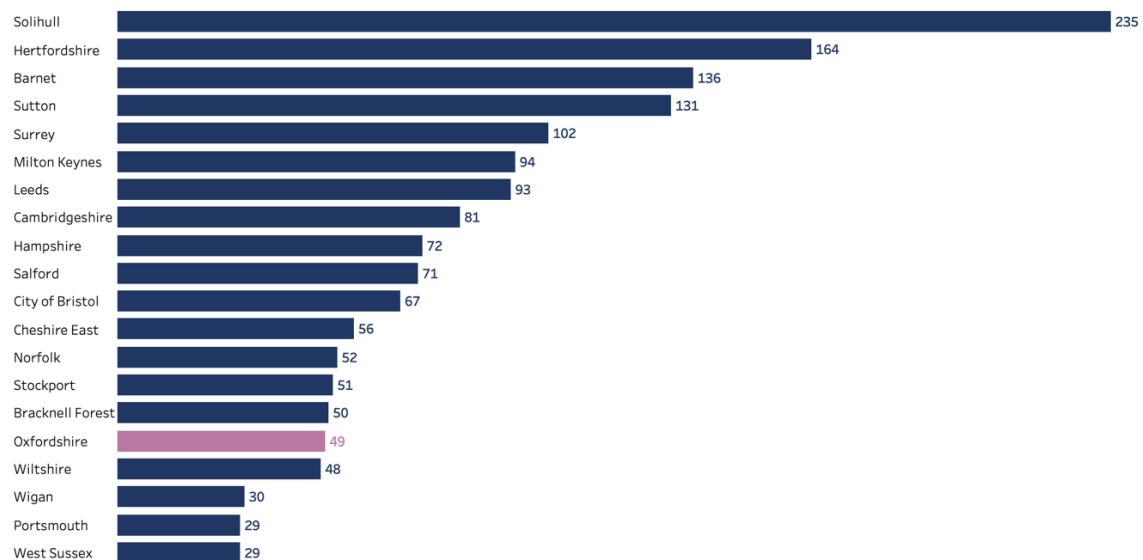
Notes: Includes upper tier local authorities.

## Numbers of Hongkonger children in Oxfordshire in comparison to other local authorities

Neither the Home Office nor the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government publish data or are able to provide data on the location of BN(O) status holders across the UK. However, data from the Department of Education in September 2022 indicated that Oxfordshire ranked sixteenth in the top twenty local authorities offering Hongkonger children a secondary school place in September 2022. Numbers in local authorities are likely to have changed since September 2022 as Hongkongers have continued to arrive via the BN(O) visa scheme.

### By September 2022, Oxfordshire had fewer children from Hong Kong in secondary schools than other local authorities

Number of children from Hong Kong given a place in secondary school, by local authority, as of September 2022

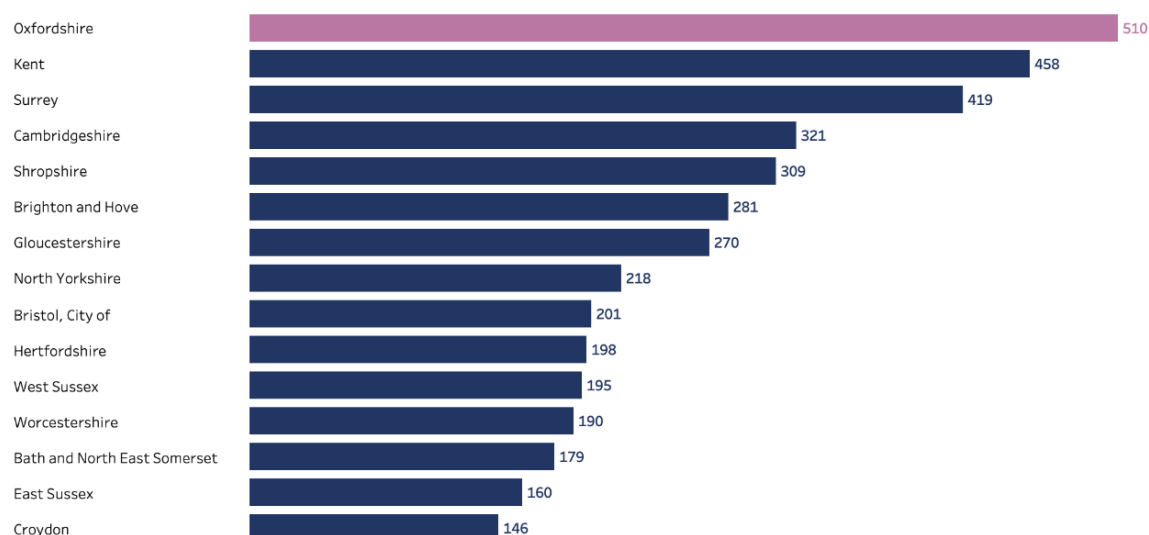


Source: Department of Education, School placement for children from outside the UK.

Whilst the secondary data indicates a relative low number of Hongkonger children in secondary schools, that data from independent schools indicates that Oxfordshire has the highest number of Hongkonger students in independent schools in the UK.

## In 2024, Oxfordshire was the local authority with the most Hong Kong children in independent schools

Number of Hong Kong students in independent schools, by local authority, 2024



Source: Independent Schools Council Annual survey.

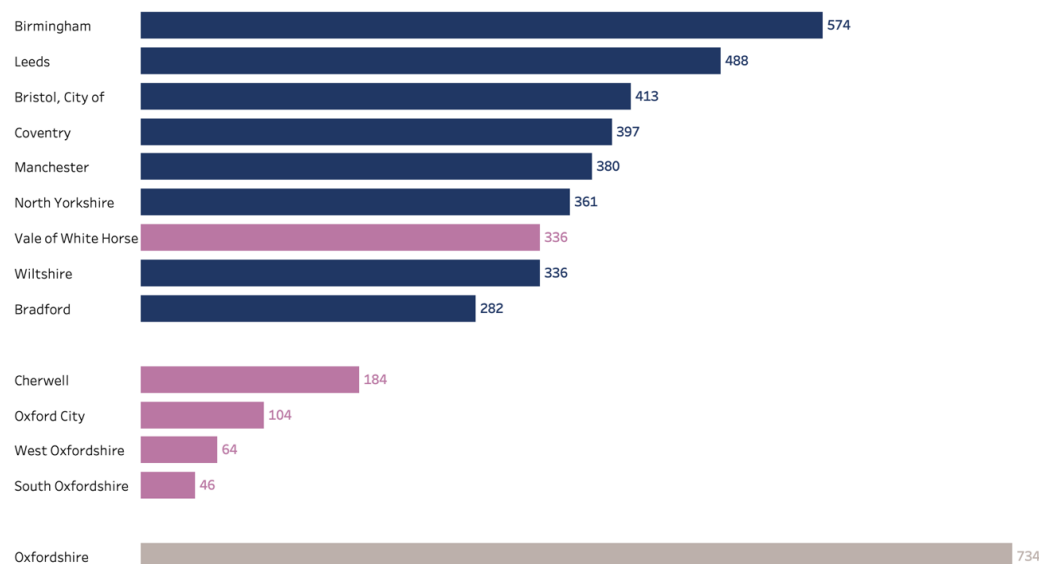
Notes: Includes children with parents in the UK as well as those with both parents overseas. Data cover upper tier local authorities.

## Numbers of resettled Afghan children in comparison to other local authorities

As we do not have accurate data on the numbers of Afghan children in each local authority, we cannot accurately benchmark Oxfordshire against other local authorities. However, Home Office data indicates that the Vale of White Horse District Council ranks seventh in the top ten local authorities with the most arrivals under the Afghan schemes. Data from the other four lower-tier local authorities in Oxfordshire, indicate that Oxfordshire is home to 734 people arriving under the Afghan resettlement schemes.

### Vale of White Horse was in the top 10 local authorities with the most arrivals under the Afghan schemes

Number of people who arrived under ARAP and ACRS, by lower-tier local authority, as of 30 September 2024



Source: Home Office Immigration Statistics, year ending September 2024, Table Reg\_D02.

## IMPROVING EDUCATION OUTCOMES FOR DISPLACED 16–19 YEAR OLDS IN OXFORDSHIRE

[Improving Education Outcomes for Displaced 16–19 year olds in Oxfordshire](#) (2024–2025) is a research and knowledge exchange programme, funded by Oxfordshire Migration Partnership, exploring the educational and employment needs and aspirations of newly arrived 16–19 year olds arriving in the UK with their families on the three bespoke humanitarian schemes from Afghanistan, Ukraine and Hong Kong.