



BRITISH CITIZENSHIP FOR CHILDREN IN CARE

A Guide for Social Workers

AUGUST 2025

INTRODUCTION	PAGE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is British Citizenship important? • Advice before you apply • Common routes • Routes to British Citizenship for Children • Care planning and immigration status • Cautions and considerations 	<p>3</p> <p>5</p> <p>5</p> <p>6</p> <p>8</p> <p>9</p>
CITIZENSHIP APPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advice for all applications • Common queries • <u>Common applications and requirements</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Born in the UK and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Lived first 10 years of life in the UK (section 1(4) BNA 81) ◦ Parents become settled or naturalise as British (section 1(3) BNA 81) Either born in the UK or abroad: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ At the Home Office's discretion (section 3(1) BNA 81) • Care leavers • Routes to Citizenship – Post 18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Section 4L British Nationality Act 1981 	<p>12</p> <p>14</p> <p></p> <p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p></p> <p>18</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>21</p>
APPENDICES – TEMPLATES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support letter template for a discretionary application for Citizenship • Social work letter template parents have gained settlement • Social work template letter child born in the UK • Template for taking statement from child • Template for foster carer • Education letter template 	<p>23</p> <p>25</p> <p>26</p> <p>27</p> <p>28</p> <p>29</p>

Introduction

Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit (GMIAU) is a voluntary organisation working with people subject to immigration control for over 35 years. We are working with local authorities in Greater Manchester to support systemic change to ensure they are fulfilling their legal duties to identify and support children without British citizenship under their care.

This guide has been created to support social workers to do citizenship applications for children in their care, where they can, and to identify where they need further support to resolve a child's immigration status. This guide should not be used in isolation from professional legal advice, or from strategic conversations at a local authority management level. Policies, care plans and systems for supporting children in care need to be designed to recognise that children in care may have immigration issues and need support in resolving them. You can contact us for further discussions on this, emailing kathleen@gmiau.org

Why is British Citizenship important?

It's estimated that there are **215,000 undocumented children** living in the UK. These are children who may go on to miss out on things like university, driving, housing, employment and benefits if their immigration status doesn't get regularised.

At least **1 in 10 children** in care in England are not British. This figure is likely to be much higher in Manchester where just under 1/3 of the population is not British.

It's important that children have permission to be in the UK and their future in the UK is secure. British Citizenship is often the best application that can be made for young people. It is suitable for those whose future lies in the UK and who do (or are likely to) identify as British having grown up in the UK.



The benefits of British Citizenship are:

- No more immigration applications
- Travel – British passport
- No restrictions on time spent outside of the UK
- Gives a sense of identity and belonging
- Gives the right to vote
- Applications are now free for children in care
- Protects against deportation and removal from the UK

It is essential that immigration status and nationality are included in care planning (see page 8). There is a duty upon social services to regularise a young person's immigration status while they are in care. Failing to do so could lead to costly legal action against the Local Authority and significant consequences for the young person, with removal from the UK being the most extreme outcome.

Further, if the opportunity to resolve immigration status before the age of 18 is missed by social services, the cost to support a care leaver while their immigration status is resolved could be as much as **£138,000** (over the 6-year period it would take to apply for leave under the private life route).

Resolving immigration status for children is a priority for the government. The May 2025 Immigration White Paper included a commitment to support children who have been in the UK for some time and turn 18 without having their immigration status resolved. This will include children in care and care leavers.

It is important not to assume a child's nationality. Children born in the UK may not be British, depending on their parents' immigration status, and children may not know themselves that they are not British. Factors such as a child's accent, race, or name should not be assumed to indicate they are British.

Advice before you apply

There are some citizenship applications that are very straight forward, and social workers can do them themselves. However, many will be more complicated and require legal advice.

This guide provides an overview of the most common citizenship applications, and the evidence required to make a successful application.

If you are working in a local authority in Greater Manchester, GMIAU offers consultation sessions on children in care with immigration issues. If you are unsure whether you are doing the right application, or need support with a citizenship application please speak with us to book onto a consultation session.

Common routes

This guide includes the most common ways children can register as British, it does not detail all of the possible routes. Unless it is very clear how the child can register as a British Citizen, it is advisable to first get legal advice to check which application to make.

Some young people may not be eligible for British citizenship but could make other types of immigration application to ensure their future in the UK is secure. No child in local authority care should be undocumented.

You may find these resources helpful in understanding rights to, and benefits of, citizenship:

- <https://www.kidsinneedofdefense.org.uk/undocumented-children/>

We recommend that you read this guide from Project for the Registration of Children as British Citizens. It contains flow charts that you can follow to see if the young person is eligible to apply for citizenship.

- <https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/read/67521686/children-and-their-rights-to-british-citizenship>

Routes to British Citizenship for children

When is a child *automatically* British?

Children born in the UK:

Children born in the UK are not automatically British, it is important to explore the nationality and immigration status of their parents.

A child will be automatically British under section 1(1) of the British Nationality Act 1981 (BNA) if:

- They are born in the UK after on or after 1 Jan 1983 and one parent was British or settled at the time of the birth.
- They are born in the UK after 30th June 2021 and parent was eligible for settled status under the EU settlement scheme at 30th June 2021.
- Born in the UK after 12th Jan 2010 and either parent was a serving member of the HM armed forces at that time.

For children born outside of the UK:

A child who was born outside of the UK to a British parent may be automatically British, but their British parent must have been born in the UK. In other words, British nationality can be passed on automatically by descent, but only for one generation.

If you determine that a child is automatically British but they have no proof of their nationality, you can apply for a British passport to confirm this. If you are in Greater Manchester and having issues with this get in touch with GMIAU.



When can a child register for British Citizenship?

Children born in the UK can register to be British if:

- They were born in the UK to a parent that subsequently becomes British or settled. This is under section 1(3) of the BNA.
- Born in the UK and spends the first 10 years of their life in the UK. This is under section 1(4) of the BNA.
- At the discretion of the Home Secretary under section 3(1). This application is a common application we are doing for children in care without British Citizenship. This application would be stronger where they have been in the UK for at least 2 years and their future clearly lies in the UK. It is important to seek legal advice for this application.
- They were born in the UK after 12th Jan 2010, and a parent subsequently joins the HM armed forces (before the child turns 18). This is under section 1(3A).

Children born outside the UK can register to be British if:

- Born outside of the UK after 12th Jan 2010 and either parent was a serving member of the HM armed forces at that time.
- Born outside of the UK to parent(s) British by descent (get further advice).
- At the discretion of the Home Secretary under section 3(1). This application is a common application we are doing for children in care without British Citizenship. This application would be stronger where they have been in the UK for at least 2 years and their future clearly lies in the UK. It is important to seek legal advice for this application.

When can a Care Leaver Register as a British Citizen?

- Section 4L of the British Nationality Act allows for care leavers to register as British Citizens where they had previously been in care of a Local Authority which failed to register them as a British Citizen. It is important to seek legal advice for this application.

Care planning and Immigration Status

It is important to have immigration issues and citizenship considerations built into care planning for children who are not British.

Knowing immigration options for a child early on is essential to strengthen a child's security and right to be in the UK. It also avoids any costly late applications being made.

It is essential that all involved are aware of any decision-making regarding immigration and citizenship and that all decisions are taken in the child's best interests.

Children may have family members overseas who are willing and able to care for them and children may wish to live with them. This is why knowing a child's nationality and immigration status is important for care planning as it allows all options of care to be explored. If exploring overseas placements, or kinship care we recommend contacting Children and Families Across Borders (CFAB) for further advice.

A way to ensure that immigration status is embedded in care planning is to apply a 'Passports for all' policy. As South London Refugee Association wrote in their 2022 report, **'Taking Care':**

"If a child or young person in care does not hold a British passport, then their social worker should normally help them to obtain one. If they are not eligible for a British passport, then asking this simple question can shine a light on which children and young people in care have an immigration or nationality need."



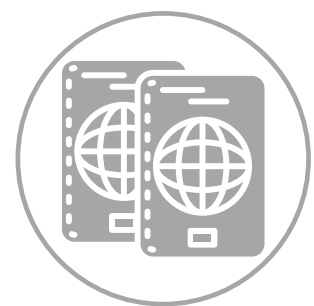
Cautions and Considerations

Dual Nationality

Dual nationality (where someone keeps their original nationality and gains British nationality as a second nationality) is only permitted by certain countries. There might be significant reasons for the child to not want to lose their original nationality. For example, a child with European citizenship might lose access to future free movement across the EU, or if ties to the country of origin are very important to the child in respect of their identity. It is important to discuss this with the child (where appropriate), and their families in care planning processes.

Where the nationality will change (i.e. dual nationality is not permitted) and the parents do not consent to this, a court order must be obtained (see the case of [Y \(Children in Care: Change of Nationality\)](#)). The local authority will need to demonstrate that changing nationality is in the child's best interest.

Where it is not in the best interests of child to change their nationality, immigration advice should be sought to ensure they have leave to remain in the UK.



Asylum Seeking Children

Always get legal advice from the solicitor who has represented a child in their asylum claim prior to making any application. There could be significant consequences for a child's asylum claim (if ongoing) or refugee status if their citizenship application contradicts their asylum claim in any way.



Good Character

With all applications to register a child as a British Citizen there is a “good character” requirement for children aged 10 years old and above. The Home Office will assess the applicant’s conduct and any criminal record. The Home Office's policy on Good Character is [here](#).

Children in care may have mitigating circumstances for not meeting the good character test, for example, trafficking and exploitation, mental health issues, relationship breakdown and adverse childhood events. Therefore, it may be possible to apply for citizenship for children in care even when they have committed offences. It is important to ensure criminal solicitors are aware of immigration/nationality concerns, and the good character requirement, as it may impact their advice.

Those with significant or persistent offending histories are very likely to be refused citizenship. It is important to get legal advice before submitting these applications.

Recent changes to the good character requirement mean that it could be harder for some people to get British citizenship depending on how they arrived in the UK. We do not know how this will impact on children at present, but there are arguments to be made that children should not be held accountable for decisions made by adults. As applications for children in care are free, and many routes are discretionary, we recommend getting legal advice on these applications and applying before the child turns 18. We will update our [website](#) once more information comes available.

Where there are concerns a child might not meet the good character requirement, advice from an immigration advisor is essential.

Where possible we recommend registering a child as British before they turn 10.

When can social workers apply for citizenship?

Immigration advice is heavily regulated and should only be given by those accredited to do so. However, social workers are permitted to complete citizenship applications on behalf of looked after children as stated in this [OISC, now IAA, practice note on Immigration Assistance](#), which states:

“Organisations such as Local Authorities may have court ordered authority to act on behalf of a vulnerable adult or child in care. In such circumstances assisting the vulnerable adult or child by providing free immigration advice or assistance does not require OISC regulation, as the assistance is given in a relationship which is akin to that of a parent or family member with care responsibilities.”

However, it is nearly always advisable to seek legal advice initially, to make sure citizenship is the right route for the child and to check which application to make.

Complex applications, such as ones where the child has an offending history, or who hasn't been in the UK for very long, should be taken on by an immigration advisor. In Greater Manchester you can attend a consultation session with GMIAU to discuss the child's situation, and the next steps. If we do not have capacity to help the Local Authority should consider paying a private solicitor.

When legal support is *needed* to complete an application:

It is important to seek legal advice before registering a child to be British. There are situations where applications will need to be completed by legal advisors. These include:

- Any application for a child who might fail the good character test.
- Discretionary applications under section 3 (1) of the BNA.
- The child does not have any form of leave to remain. In most cases it would be best to see if an application for leave to remain can be made before the citizenship application. Recently we have seen citizenship applications being refused where the child does not have settlement or ILR. It is important to explore if applying for leave and/or ILR is needed ahead of applying for citizenship.

When legal support is not needed to complete an application:

- Applications for children born in the UK and where a parent has subsequently become settled or a British citizen.
- Applications for children born in the UK and who have lived the first 10 years of their life in the UK.

It is important to be aware that this is still an immigration application, so social workers must ensure all the information submitted to the Home Office is correct.

Citizenship application process – advice for all applications

Online application process

- Applications are made online (see below for guidance on each application). You will be asked to set up an account to log in and you can save the application and come back to it at a later date.
- Be sure to save a copy of the application and any supporting evidence.

Uploading evidence



- Once the application form is completed, the Home Office will advise what documents and evidence needs to be submitted and a link will be provided to upload these. The applicant will also need to book an appointment to submit biometrics.
- Follow the link to the UK Visa and Citizenship Application Services Portal (managed by TLS Contact) to upload supporting evidence (see below) and book a biometrics (fingerprints and photos) appointment.



Biometrics

- Biometrics are fingerprints and photographs. The Home Office record these to make sure applications are not being made on behalf of others / to prevent fraud.
- Free biometrics appointments are released every day but get booked up quickly. There are always very expensive appointments sooner that can be booked onto. When booking the biometrics appointment, it is often necessary to scroll right through the calendar to find the free appointments. If there are none left, log into the portal first thing the following morning.

Waiting times

- Waiting times for decisions on citizenship applications can vary and it is important to manage expectations and not to book any travel abroad until the citizenship has been granted.
- The Home Office aim to respond to applications within 6 months. Often, they exceed this, and some cases wait over a year.

Citizenship Ceremony

A child who turns 18 before the decision has been made, will need to attend a citizenship ceremony. There is a cost to the ceremony that we recommend the Local Authority to pay.

Problems / Advice

The Home Office have a citizenship Vulnerability Team who can be contacted on cvpt@homeoffice.gov.uk to discuss any problems with applications or any queries. This email address can also be used to request a proof of status document from the home Office. You will need to complete a form and explain which section of the children's act the child is looked after.

Common Queries / FAQs

The parents don't consent / no parents in the UK, can the Local Authority complete the consent forms?

It depends on if the application would change the child's nationality. If the child can be a dual national, then the local authority can complete the consent forms.

However, if British Citizenship would change their nationality (because they can't be a dual national), without parental consent the local authority would need a court order to change their nationality. Conversations about immigration status, and nationality are an essential part of care planning, therefore this should be explored as early on in care proceedings as possible. Social workers should explore which countries allow dual nationality and which don't, for example Spain does not with Britain. Care planning should explore if changing nationality, without parental consent would be in the child's best interest.

The child is accommodated under section 20, is the application still free?

Yes, the child is still looked after so the application will be free.



The child is accommodated under section 20, can we proceed without parents' consent?

Yes, as above if the application would not change the child's nationality, then parental consent is not needed. If there are no parents to gain consent from then the application can go ahead without their consent (even if it would change their nationality).

The child is not looked after; can they still apply?

Yes, they can still apply, however the application will not automatically be free. Depending on the families' circumstances, they may be eligible for a fee waiver and legal aid. You can find more information here: <https://www.gov.uk/get-child-citizenship-fee-waiver>

What happens if the child is born in the UK but we can't evidence they have lived the first 10 years of their life in the UK?

In most cases children born in the UK will probably have spent the first 10 years here but it can be harder to prove the earlier years. If someone can show any 10 years residence (but not necessarily the first 10 years), we would recommend showing as much evidence as available to cover the early years of the child's life, and request that the Home Office accept that the child was in the UK during that time on the balance of probabilities. In this situation you can contact us to ask if a legal advisor could look over the application before submitting.



Applications under section 1(4) BNA 81 – for children born in the UK and have lived in the UK for the first 10 years of their lives.

Application process

Form T – This is an [online application](#) (paper copy version [here](#))

Requirements and eligibility

- Born in the UK
- Lived first 10 years of life in the UK
- Absences – no more than 180 days in any one year and 990 days over the 10 year period (unless exceptional circumstances).
- Good character (for those applying over the age of 10)

Evidence

Examples of evidence of living in UK for the first 10 years of life

- Birth certificate
- passport or travel document
- medical records
- Health visitor records
- vaccination records
- doctors' letters
- personal child health record (red book)
- Parents' tenancy agreements from when they lived with them.
- letters from child's nursery with full attendance records if available
- Social work records / letter
- letters from child's school with full attendance records and percentage of attendance
- passport or travel document for the full 10-year period to confirm absences during the period

Other evidence

- Care Order
- Social Worker letter – to include background – why the child is in care (briefly), child's history as known to children's services, when the care order started, child's living arrangements and if they are happy there, if they have left the UK, child's hopes for the future, plans for the future in respect of care planning (see example letter – page 26).



Applications under section (section 1(3) BNA 81) – where parents become settled or naturalise as British

Application process

Form MN1 – This is an [online application](#) (paper copy version [here](#))

Requirements and eligibility

- Born in the UK
- One parent has been granted indefinite leave to remain or British Citizenship since birth
- Absences – no more than 180 days in any one year and 990 days over the 10 year period (unless exceptional circumstances).
- Good character

Evidence

Examples of evidence of living in UK for the first 10 years of life

- Birth certificate
- Passport / National ID card (if possible)
- If passport/national ID card not possible, social work letter with attached photo of child attesting that this a true likeness. Explain in social work letter why they don't have social work ID
- Evidence of leave to remain in the UK if appropriate
- Evidence of residence in the UK- school records, doctors records, social work records.
- Evidence of parent's ILR/British passport if they will provide it.

Other evidence

- Care Order
- Social Worker letter – to include (briefly), why the child is in care, child's history as known to children's services, when the care order started, child's hopes for the future, plans for the future in respect of care planning, why their future lies in the UK (see example letter – page 26).



What happens if parents won't provide their proof of status or British Citizenship?

If not, the social worker can request the parents' status document from the Home Office using cvpt@homeoffice.gov.uk. The Home Office should provide it even without parents' consent in order to help the social worker to help the child.

The Home Office **should** also "take into account any evidence already in our records. If documents have been seen and noted in the past there is no need to ask to see them again", therefore the social worker could ask the Home Office to check their own records for evidence.

Applications under section (section 3(1) BNA 81) – at the discretion of the Home Secretary

This application would need legal advice to be completed.

Application process

Form MN1 – This is an [online application](#) (paper copy version [here](#))

Requirements and eligibility

- The applicant is under 18 at the date of the application
- If aged 10 years or over on the date of application the applicant is of good character see good character requirements
- The Home Office think fit to register them

There are things that would strengthen the application:

- The child's future intentions – need to show that their future plainly lies in the UK.
- the child's parents' circumstances. However, the guidance does say "in cases where there is no parent, the parents are overseas, or the child is in care you should focus on where the child's future is likely to be – either in the UK or not."
- any compelling compassionate circumstances raised as part of the application.



- Length of time in the UK, the guidance says at least 2 years, but 10 years would make it stronger.
- Having leave to remain in the UK. This is not essential but will strengthen the application. A child with indefinite leave to remain (settlement) would have the strongest application. Again, this is not a legal requirement, but children with settlement have the best chance of being granted on the discretionary route.

Evidence

- Identity Evidence
- Passport / National ID card (if possible)
- Evidence of leave to remain in the UK if appropriate
- Evidence of residence in the UK- school records, doctors records, social work records.

Other evidence

- Care Order
- Social Worker letter – to include (briefly), why the child is in care, child's history as known to children's services, when the care order started, child's hopes for the future, plans for the future in respect of care planning, comments on good character. Include any compelling circumstances too as the Home Office need to consider this. This could include how disrupted their childhood has been and the impact this has on their sense of identity and belonging.
- Letter from accommodation/foster carer including their view that the child's future plainly lies in the UK.
- Statement from child including their hopes and dreams for their future life remaining in the UK.
- Letter from school about the child's future being in the UK
- Any other professionals supporting the child who can comment on the child's good character, whether they believe the child's future lies in the UK and their view on how British Citizenship would benefit the child.
- Letter from parent if appropriate

Care leavers

Support for young people wishing to apply for British Citizenship should not cease once a child turns 18.

Working towards British Citizenship may be a key goal for the young person in order to secure immigration security in the UK and also to support feelings of belonging and identity.

The young person may need support from the Local Authority in terms of seeking legal advice, financial support for the application and help with supporting evidence.

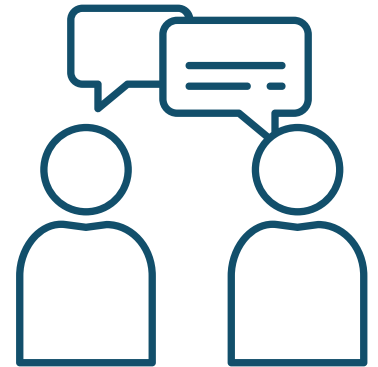
Please note that as the young person is no longer a child in care, the local authority cannot make the application on behalf of the young person and legal advice should always be sought for these cases.

Once a young person turns 18, there are no longer any options to apply for British Citizenship for free. Further, many options available to a child to apply for citizenship no longer apply once a young person reaches adulthood. In addition, legal aid is not normally available for these applications and so legal fees may need to be paid in addition to application costs. Therefore, making arrangements for citizenship applications to be made before a child turns 18 is essential.



Routes to Citizenship – Post 18

Note – Other routes exist and a young person should get immigration advice to understand their individual circumstances.



Section 4L British Nationality Act 1981

This is a route to citizenship for adults who would have been able to obtain citizenship if it were not for:

- Historical legislative unfairness
- An act or omission of a public authority, or
- Exceptional circumstances.

Many care leavers are likely to have been eligible for citizenship when they were a child but they were not supported to apply for it by the local authority.

These will be young people who could have applied under the routes outlined above but they were not supported to do so when under the age of 18.

Possible examples of this situation could include:

- A child born in the UK who came into care aged 15. The local authority made no enquiries about the child's immigration status, and it was only noted that they did not have valid leave to remain once the child applied for benefits aged 18.
 - In these circumstances it would be expected for the local authority to pay all the legal fees and application fees for the child's nationality application.

Application process

Form ARD – This is a paper form and needs to be completed and sent with the correct fees and payment slip to:

Department 164
UK Visas and
Immigration
The Capital Building
New Hall Place
Liverpool
L3 9PP



- The guidance for this form is found [here](#).

Requirements and eligibility

- Be over the age of 18
- Are of full capacity
- In the Home Secretary's opinion you would, or would have been able to become, a British citizen but for—
 - historical legislative unfairness
 - an act or omission of a public authority
 - exceptional circumstances relating to you
- Pass the good character test
- Pay the fee (including the application fee and ceremony fee – the current fees can be found [here](#)).

Evidence

Identity Evidence

Passport / National ID card (where possible)

Evidence of Act or Omission

Evidence of eligibility to a route that the child could have taken under 18
Care order

Social work letter explaining that the Local Authority did not support the young person to apply for citizenship under the age of 18 and why not.

Templates for supporting letters

Support letter template for a discretionary application for Citizenship

- [Download Template](#)

Local Authority headed paper

To whom it may concern

Regarding [Name, DOB]

My current role:

Explain your current role, for example:

"I am a social worker in the cared for children team at XXXX Local Authority. I have worked in this role since XXXXX. I hold a current case load of XXXXX children. I regularly carry out assessments of needs and consider children's best interests when completing these".

My experience:

Include any relevant qualifications, experience and training, especially those related to working with children with insecure immigration status, carrying out assessments and recommending the best interests of children. For example:

"Before my current role I worked as a duty and assessment social worker in XXXX Local Authority. I was in this role for XXX years. My duties included XXXXXX.

I am a qualified and registered social worker, I completed my training in XXXX. I have undertaken further training in XXXXXX."

Work with XXXX:

Detail your relationship with the child whose application you are supporting, how long you have supported them, how regular you have had contact with them, and the type of contact. For example:

"I have been working with XXX since XXX as their social worker. Over that time I have been in regular contact with XXXX, I have carried out XXXX face to face visits every XXX weeks, and completed XXXX looked after child reviews. I have further been in regular contact with their carers and other professionals supporting them. XXX has been under the care of XXX Local Authority since.

Professional view on citizenship:

Include:

- Length of time you have worked with the child and how you have built a relationship with them.
- Any examples of times they have expressed that they wish to apply for British Citizenship to you. This could be in your 1-1 visits, but might also be recorded in looked after children review notes, or personal education plans.



- Any examples of times the child has expressed that they see the UK as their home and their future here. This again could include their aspirations for the future including education or work depending on their age.
- Any examples of times other professionals have reported to you that the child has expressed wishing to remain in the UK.
- Any examples of future plans, for example, education, university, work ambitions.
- Include details of exploration the Local Authority has had of contact with any family overseas, or if it would be suitable to remove the child to family overseas. Include reference to any care planning documents, or decisions/recommendations made through the care order.
- Detail any impact lack of British Citizenship has had on the child's mental health and wellbeing. You could also include other professionals' concerns that have been passed onto you. Detail any opportunities they have missed out on, especially in comparison to their peers. Explore if there has been an impact on their sense of identity and self.
- Give your professional opinion on the child's character and any redeeming qualities they have. If there have been concerns around their character (for example police involvement) please get in contact with a lawyer for advice.
- Professional view on if British citizenship is in the child's best interest and the impact it could have on them.

If you need any further information please don't hesitate to get in contact.

Yours sincerely,
XXX



Social work letter template parents have gained settlement

- [Download Template](#)

Local Authority headed paper

Date

To whom it may concern,

Regarding [Name, DOB]

My current role:

Explain your current role, for example:

"I am a social worker in the cared for children team at XXXX Local Authority. I have worked in this role since XXXXX. I hold a current case load of XXXXX children. I regularly carry out assessments of needs and consider children's best interests when completing these".

My experience:

Include any relevant qualifications, experience and training, especially those related to working with children with insecure immigration status, carrying out assessments and recommending the best interests of children. For example:

"Before my current role I worked as a duty and assessment social worker in XXXX Local Authority. I was in this role for XXX years. My duties included XXXXXX.

I am a qualified and registered social worker, I completed my training in XXXX. I have undertaken further training in XXXXXX."

Work with XXXX:

Detail your relationship with the child whose application you are supporting, confirm they are in care and since what date. Confirm they have not left the UK (if they have seek further advice). Confirm how long they have been in the UK (since birth) and how you know this. example:

"XXX is under the care of the Local Authority under section XXX of the Children Act 1989. XXX has been under our care since XXXX. I have been working with XXX since XXX as their social worker. XXX has been known to services since XXX. From our records we have known them to be in the UK since birth. XXX has not left the UK over this time.

Professional view on citizenship:

Professional view on if British citizenship is in the child's best interest and the impact it could have on them.

If you need any further information please don't hesitate to get in contact.

Yours sincerely,
XXX



Social work template letter child born in the UK

- [Download Template](#)

Local Authority headed paper

To whom it may concern,

Regarding [Name, DOB]

My current role:

Explain your current role, for example:

"I am a social worker in the cared for children team at XXXX Local Authority. I have worked in this role since XXXXX. I hold a current case load of XXXXX children. I regularly carry out assessments of needs and consider children's best interests when completing these".

My experience:

Include any relevant qualifications, experience and training, especially those related to working with children with insecure immigration status, carrying out assessments and recommending the best interests of children. For example:

"Before my current role I worked as a duty and assessment social worker in XXXX Local Authority. I was in this role for XXX years. My duties included XXXXXX."

I am a qualified and registered social worker, I completed my training in XXXX. I have undertaken further training in XXXXXX."

Work with XXXX:

Detail your relationship with the child whose application you are supporting, confirm they are in care and since what date. Confirm they have not left the UK (if they have seek further advice). Confirm how long they have been in the UK (since birth) and how you know this. example:

"XXX is under the care of the Local Authority under section XXX of the Children Act 1989. XXX has been under our care since XXXX. I have been working with XXX since XXX as their social worker. XXX has been known to services since XXX. From our records we have known them to be in the UK since birth. XXX has not left the UK over this time."

Professional view on citizenship:

Professional view on if British citizenship is in the child's best interest and the impact it could have on them.

If you need any further information please don't hesitate to get in contact.

Yours sincerely,
XXX

Template for taking statement from child

Things to explore with a child to support them in writing a statement for citizenship:

- Their sense of identity, if they feel British and why they wish to become a British Citizen.
- Their hopes and ambitions for the future, and how citizenship could impact on this. This could include education and work ambitions.
- The impact not having citizenship has had on their wellbeing and mental health. Any opportunities they have missed out on, and any difference they feel to their peers.
- Their character and positive attributes.
- How long they have been in the UK, the links they have built here (including school, friends, with any family in the UK, and carers/professionals supporting them).
- Any contact they have or haven't had with family overseas and how they would feel about living in that country (if appropriate).

Tip:

The statement should be written by the child, in first person using the words they use.





Template for foster carer

- [Download Template](#)

To whom it may concern,

Regarding [Name, DOB].

My relationship with XXXX:

For example:

I am the foster carer for XXX. They have lived with me at my address [insert address] since XXX.

- Detail the support and care you provide for child.
- Detail how settled they seem with you, any connections they have made (for example friends, community groups and your wider family).
- Detail any extracurricular activity they have taken part in whilst under your care and the impact this has had on them.
- Explain the long-term care plan for the child if appropriate, for example if this is a long-term placement with the plan for them to stay until 18 or after.

Views on citizenship:

To include:

- Any conversations you have had with the child about their hopes, dreams and ambitions for the future, and if they have indicated if they would like to stay in the UK.
- Any negative impact you have seen due to the child not having citizenship in the UK.
- comment on the child's character, share any redeeming qualities.
- Your view on how British citizenship would impact on the child, and their future.

If you need any further information please don't hesitate to get in contact.

Yours sincerely,

XXX



Education letter template

- [Download Template](#)

School headed paper

To whom it may concern,

Regarding [Name, DOB]

My current role:

Explain your current role and how long you have been in your role and your relationship to the child.

My experience:

Include any relevant qualifications, experience and training, especially those related to working with children with insecure immigration status, or looked after children.

Work with XXXX:

To include:

- How long the child has been in attendance at the school and how long you have known them.
- Any comment on progress and work ethic, any results and predicted results.
- What is the child's future potential academically?
- Any additional activities the child does, and any relationships they have built with their peers and in the school.

View on citizenship:

- Whether the child is of good character and any redeeming qualities about their personality / work ethic etc.
- View on how British Citizenship could improve the child's life / integration in school / future. Any concerns the school have had about the impact of insecure status in the UK has had on the child. Include any conversations the school has had with the child about their hopes for the future and if they see their future in the UK.

If you need any further information please don't hesitate to get in contact.

Yours sincerely,
XXX