

Chief Executives' Group - North Yorkshire and York**Wednesday 5 February 2020****EU Settlement Scheme**

1. Data published by the Home Office shows that the number of EU citizens in North Yorkshire applying for the right to live here after Brexit (known as settled or pre-settled status) is significantly lower than the rest of the UK. If this position continues, the risks include a negative impact on the local economy and people living in North Yorkshire without access to public services.
2. More information about the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) is included in the appendix, but in essence after 31 June 2021 EU citizens and some other people without settled or pre-settled status will not be able to:
 - live, work or rent housing in the UK
 - enrol in education or continue studying
 - use the NHS for free or access public funds and services such as benefits
 - travel in and out of the UK
3. The latest available data by local authority area (30 September 2019) suggests that 40% of eligible population in North Yorkshire have applied, compared to 58% nationally.
4. Significant numbers of EU citizens are employed locally, particularly in the agriculture, hospitality and social care sectors. A reduction in the number of EU citizens choosing to work locally is likely to adversely impact on these and other sectors.
5. Freedom of movement between EU countries and the UK, and the existing immigration rules for all non-EU citizens, will continue as at present until 31 December 2020. However, the likelihood of EU citizens arriving and/or staying now and in the future will depend on a number of factors including the value of the £ against the € and the extent to which people feel welcome in the UK after Brexit.
6. The EUSS application process is relatively simple if people have all of the following:
 - electronic evidence held by HMRC that they have lived and worked in the UK
 - a current biometric passport
 - access to a compatible Android or Apple device
 - a sufficient command of the written English language
7. Some people do not have all of the above for various reasons which can take many months to overcome. Examples include errors in payroll records submitted to HMRC. Those without a current biometric passport may need to travel back to their home country. Children born in the UK may have particular difficulties.

8. The County Council Registration Service can assist people to access a compatible Android or Apple device, but it cannot provide immigration advice or assist people if they are having other difficulties with their application. The Home Office has funded a number of voluntary organisations to offer advice and assistance but the nearest are in South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire or Newcastle.
9. The Government will be launching a campaign on 10 February 2020 to encourage eligible people to apply. However, it is likely that isolated and vulnerable people will be less likely to be reached by the campaign and may need additional support to apply.
10. Organisations represented at the Chief Executives Group are encouraged to consider what actions they can take to ensure that all eligible people are informed and, where necessary, supported to apply. Examples of action could include:
 - Communicating key messages to residents, customers and employees (for example the County Council will be issuing media stories with case studies about local people who have successfully applied);
 - Displaying campaign material (e.g. posters and leaflets) produced by the Home Office (currently only available to local authorities);
 - Contacting employers that may employ significant numbers of eligible people and encouraging them to inform and support their employees; and
 - Focused communications with customers who are likely to be eligible.

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Appendix

1. The EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) allows EU, EEA or Swiss citizens and their families (including those with other nationalities) who are living in the UK to request permission to keep living in the country after 30 June 2021. The EEA includes EU countries and Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. Irish citizens do not need to apply for settled status, but can do so if they wish.
2. All eligible people need to apply, including those who:
 - were born in the UK but are not a British citizen (a child born in the UK does not automatically receive British citizenship unless a parent holds British Citizenship);
 - have a UK 'permanent residence document';
 - are a family member of an EU, EEA or Swiss citizen who does not need to apply;
 - are an EU, EEA or Swiss citizen with a British citizen family member;
 - used to have an EU, EEA or Swiss family member living in the UK (but have separated or they have died);
 - are the family member of a British citizen and lived outside the UK in an EEA country together;
 - are the primary carer of a British, EU, EEA or Swiss citizen; or
 - are the child of an EU, EEA or Swiss citizen who used to live and work in the UK, or the child's primary carer.
3. Successful applicants will be granted settled status or pre-settled status depending on how long they can evidence that they have lived in the UK. Settled status grants indefinite leave to remain. People granted pre-settled status can remain for five years and apply to change to settled status once they can evidence five years' continuous residence, but must do this before their pre-settled status expires.
4. People without settled or pre-settled status will not be able to:
 - live, work or rent housing in the UK;
 - enrol in education or continue studying;
 - use the NHS for free or access public funds and services such as benefits; or
 - travel in and out of the UK.
5. People awarded settled or pre-settled status are notified by letter but cannot use the letter itself to prove their status; instead they have to use an online system to view their status or prove it to someone else. However, people from outside the EU, EEA or Switzerland will get a physical document if they do not already have a biometric residence card.
6. The deadline for applying is 31 June 2021. People will usually be able to apply for British citizenship 12 months after gaining settled status.