

POLICY BULLETIN 78

ADDITIONAL PAYMENTS TO PREGNANT WOMEN AND CHILDREN AGED UNDER 3

SCOPE OF THE DOCUMENT

1.0 This document provides guidance to UK Border Agency staff on the issue of additional payments to pregnant women and children under the age of 3 who are in receipt of asylum support from the UK Border Agency. It explains why the payments are being made and who is eligible.

2.0 Application of this instruction in respect of children and those with children: Section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009 requires the UK Border Agency to carry out its existing functions in a way that takes into account the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the UK. It does not impose any new functions, or override existing functions.

Officers must not apply the actions set out in this instruction either to children or to those with children without having due regard to Section 55. The UK Border Agency instruction 'Arrangements to Safeguard and Promote Children's Welfare in the United Kingdom Border Agency' sets out the key principles to take into account in all Agency activities.

Our statutory duty to children includes the need to demonstrate:

- Fair treatment which meets the same standard a British child would receive;
- The child's interests being made a primary, although not the only consideration;
- No discrimination of any kind;
- Asylum applications are dealt with in a timely fashion;
- Identification of those that might be at risk from harm.

SUMMARY

3.0 The Asylum Support (Amendment) Regulations 2003 allows for additional payments to be made to supported women who are pregnant and to children under the age of 3. The payment may be made both to those already supported under section 95 and to those who have made an application for support where they have been assessed as eligible for support under section 95. Additional payments began on 3 March 2003.

BACKGROUND

4.0 On 5 November 2002, the Home Secretary announced his intention to provide additional payments to pregnant women and children under the age of 3 supported by the UK Border Agency. The payment is intended to be similar to the provisions of the Welfare Foods Scheme for those on income support.

4.1 The additional funding is intended to allow supported asylum seekers to purchase healthy foods. As the payment will be in cash asylum seekers can choose what they buy.

4.2 Pregnant women and young children aged between 1 and 3 will each receive an additional £3 per week. Babies under 1 will receive an additional £5 per week.

4.3 Applications for additional payments received from fathers for their babies and children aged under 3 should be dealt with in the same way as those from mothers.

MAKING AN APPLICATION

5.0 Pregnant women who are supported under Section 95 should make an application for additional payment to;

PAC Team 3
Voyager House
30 Wellesley Road
Croydon
CR0 2AD

5.1 This request must be in writing, signed by the applicant and include original, credible written confirmation of pregnancy such as form MAT B1, a letter from a Community Midwife or a letter from a GP.

5.2 Once a pregnant women gives birth she or her representative should forward an **original, full** birth certificate to PAC Team 3, 30 Wellesley Road, Croydon. CR0 2AD. Applicants are advised to obtain a full birth certificate when registering the birth of their baby. When this information is received the child will be added as a dependant on the support application. The mother's additional support stops and additional support of £5 per week for the baby begins.

5.3 Women who are in receipt of additional payments will not automatically receive a Maternity Payment and will therefore be required to apply separately.

For further guidance about applications for the Maternity Payment, please refer to Policy Bulletin 37.

APPLICATIONS FOR SUPPORT FROM NEWLY ARRIVED ASYLUM SEEKERS

5.4 Details of dependants under the age of 3 will be included in the application form for support. Women who are pregnant will need to apply in writing, and provide original credible written confirmation of pregnancy form a health official or an original EDD (expected date of delivery official document). The application must be signed by the applicant.

Additional payments will begin once eligibility is confirmed. Additional Payments will not be subject to back payment.