

Moving on? Integration and onward migration of dispersed refugees in the UK
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This paper aims to develop understanding of refugee integration in the UK by focusing upon onward migration after dispersal. UK dispersal policy began in 2000, as a result of the 1999 Immigration and Asylum Act. The rationale is to spread the burden of housing asylum seekers across the UK and discourage long-term settlement in the South East. The majority of literature on UK dispersal has critiqued the policy as part of restrictive and deterrent UK asylum apparatus as well as identifying negative impacts upon individuals removed from kinship, social networks and community organisations which can result in onward migration. Despite the aim of dispersal to determine local and national movements of asylum seekers, there has been surprisingly little attention paid to the role played by current UK dispersal policy in onward migration. An absence of information, including data on onward movement, means that refugees' needs may remain under-reported and hamper adequate service provision. Based upon analysis of quantitative data sources, this paper aims to fill this knowledge gap. Whilst the UK Home Office ceases to collect data on refugees after they are granted status, the recently published New Survey of Refugees (2009) includes information on the long-term settlement of refugees in the UK. Additionally, data from the Refugee Integration and Employment Service (RIES) is explored to provide insights into the mobility patterns of refugees in the UK. Given the linkages between refugee migration and long-term settlement, this research aims to reflect upon the operation of UK dispersal policy for nearly a decade in order to theorise the connections between onward migration and refugee integration.