

Migration in Barnsley.

Fact not fiction.

Migration has long shaped Barnsley's rich industrial heritage. Today, we're a community, embracing diversity and innovation as we look to the future. With key developments like The Glass Works and the Digital Media Centre, Barnsley is a vibrant hub of culture, opportunity, and progress—a place where history inspires growth, and everyone can thrive.

With so much in the news about migration in the UK, this leaflet focuses on what is happening locally in Barnsley. It provides facts about asylum seekers, refugees, and migrant workers, along with links to reliable sources for further information.

Learn the facts, share the truth.

Who is an asylum seeker?

An asylum seeker is someone who has had to leave their home country because they fear being harmed due to things like their race, religion, nationality, or political beliefs. When they arrive in a new country, they ask for permission to stay legally while their situation is reviewed, a basic human right protected by international law.

Who is a refugee?

A refugee is someone who has been granted permission to stay in a new country after proving that returning home would pose serious risks. They have the same rights as permanent UK residents.

Who is a migrant?

A migrant is someone who moves from one country to another, often for work or education. This move can be temporary or permanent.

Some common myths, busted.

"They are all coming here from Afghanistan."

The facts

The most common countries of origin for people moving to Barnsley from abroad are Poland, Romania, India, Pakistan, and Slovakia.

This suggests that Barnsley is attracting working-age migrants from mainly Eastern European and South Asian countries. Check this out at www.migrationyorkshire.org.uk

"Barnsley is overpopulated by asylum seekers and refugees."

The facts

Between the years 2011 and 2021, the population in Barnsley only increased by 5.8%.

According to the 2021 Census, 225,400 Barnsley people said they were born in England, that is 92.3% of the total population. For more information, visit the Census website: www.ons.gov.uk/census.

"Barnsley is flooded with asylum seekers who contribute nothing and take all the council housing."

The facts

As of June 2024, 270 asylum seekers are living in various accommodations across Barnsley, which is less than 0.25% of the total population.

There are currently no asylum hotels in Barnsley. By law, asylum seekers cannot apply for benefits, work, or join the social housing register. Private companies provide all housing for asylum seekers. This is MEARS Group PLC in Barnsley. Asylum seekers have no say in where they live. They receive a subsistence allowance of £49.18, per person, per week directly from the Government, not from local authorities. For more information, visit the Migration Yorkshire website: www.migrationyorkshire.org.uk.

"They only come here for the benefits."

The facts

Asylum seekers are not allowed to work, and migrants are less likely to claim benefits or live in social housing compared to people born in the UK. Data shows that most migrants come to the UK to work, not to claim benefits. For more details, check out the Migration Observatory migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/.

Asylum seekers can apply to work after ONE year if they are not responsible for the delay in their asylum application.

Let's tell our story together.

This leaflet has been carefully compiled by the Barnsley Migration Response Group to provide clear insights into local asylum and migration matters.