Appendix 1 – Description of Training For Success programme and the support received by asylum seekers

Participants in the Training For Success programme

Training for Success is designed for young people aged 16 - 18 (up to 24 years for those requiring additional support) and provides training to give them the tools and skills they need to get a job.

This training provides young people with relevant qualifications as well as the required personal and behavioural skills to progress into work. From September 2008 participants in this scheme receive a non means tested Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) of £40 per week.

In order that this additional element to the scheme may operate successfully, the young person could be required to obtain a letter from the Training Organisation confirming participation on the programme. This should include commencement date and anticipated completion date.

Asylum seekers

A National Asylum Support (NAS) cash support payment is issued through the Home Office to individuals who are in the process of seeking asylum in the UK.

Individuals are issued with a letter confirming that they are eligible for cash support payments as they wait for their asylum case to be heard. The agency in Northern Ireland that distributes this under contract from Home Office is Bryson One Stop Shop. They also issue a letter (with the individual's photograph attached) to confirm that the individual is in receipt of NAS support. The Home Office also issue an asylum registration card (ARC card) which could also confirm an individual's identity.

In order that this additional element to the scheme may operate successfully, an individual would need either:

- The Home Office letter confirming receipt of the NAS payment and the ARC photographic card; or
- The Bryson One Stop Shop letter which has a photograph printed on the letter (it is more likely that this will be the most frequent letter presented).