



Thurrock Council
The Town Hall, High Street, Grays, Essex RM17 6SL
www.thurrock.gov.uk

Email: Richard.Bingley@thurrock.gov.uk

Tel: 01375 659555

29 July 2026

Jo White MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary (Home Office)

By email: jo.white.mp@parliament.uk

Dear Jo White MP,

Re: No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) costs

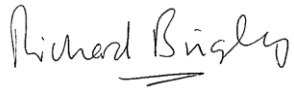
I am writing to you to set out the unacceptable unfunded financial burdens being placed on Thurrock Council for NRPF families. Thurrock Council is in Government intervention due to historic debts and requires Exceptional Financial Assistance to deliver statutory services; the NRPF additional financial burden should not fall to Thurrock residents. I am formally requesting that your Department should fund this financial burden and prioritise the NRPF immigration applications to ensure they are completed in reasonable timescales.

NRPF occurs when a parent overstays their permission to remain in this country, this can be because of expired work/student visas, sponsorship expiry or spousal visa breakdown. These adults do not have recourse to benefits or private means to support themselves (they are not seeking asylum as their country of origin is considered a safe country). Because they have children the Local Authority (LA) has to financially support them whilst their immigration status is resolved so that they are entitled to claim benefits. This duty falls to the LA under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, European Convention on Human Rights, Article 3 – prohibition on inhuman or degrading treatment, Article 8 – respect for private and family life. A child whose parent has no recourse to public funds (benefits) will be deemed to be a child in need in that area and the family require financial support to meet the child's basic needs, including for accommodation and subsistence.

In Thurrock we have seen a rise in NRPF families and the annual unfunded costs for the last five years to support the families are; 21/22 - £262,176, 22/23 - £276,696, 23/24 - £231,739, 24/25 - £324,019 and in 25/26 this has risen to £570,405. These are not sustainable unfunded financial burdens for Thurrock residents. It takes on average 2 years to resolve the immigration status of NRPF families, this is unacceptable. If timescales were shorter for immigration resolution, we would not be funding families for protracted periods of time. It is worth noting that the term NRPF is misleading because the funds provided by the LA to support these families, is public funding. A more accurate description would be 'No Recourse to Benefits'.

In summary, NRPF families is an unfunded financial burden to LA's. Additionally, the immigration department takes so long to resolve claims, these financial burdens are rising and creating severe cost pressures for this Council. I am requesting that your Department refund Thurrock Council the costs paid out to NRPF families.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Richard Bingley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Councillor Richard Bingley
Leader of Thurrock Council