

International Recruitment

Bulletin 45
27th April 2026



Erica Lockhart MBE, Chair

Background

SESCA, in partnership with Southeast ADASS, is leading the 2024/27 International Recruitment project in the southeast, funded by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), to support ASC providers, with two main objectives:

- **Support international care workers** impacted by sponsor licence revocations (**displaced workers**) into new ethical employment.
- **Support adult social care providers** to recruit displaced workers and promote ethical recruitment practices.

Project Update

We are pleased to confirm that the Department of Health and Social Care has approved continued funding for the International Recruitment (IR) project for a further year.

This funding will run through to 31 March 2027 and is expected to represent the final year of the programme.

Funding for 2026–27 has been significantly reduced, and we are currently reviewing how activity will be adapted to reflect this, while continuing to support providers and displaced workers across the region.

We will provide a more detailed update over the coming weeks, including further information on funding arrangements and the application process for the year ahead.

Ongoing Scheme Activity

- Providers can still apply to join the scheme, and assurance reviews are continuing
- Assured providers can continue to recruit from our existing pool of displaced workers
- Workers can still apply to the scheme; however, new applicants will not be added to the active pool until future arrangements are confirmed



SESCA

South East
Social Care Alliance



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2025/26 Grant Processing

As outlined in our last Bulletin, we are processing the final Part 1 grant payments for matches made before 20 March 2026. Once all Part 1 payments have been completed, eligible providers will be invited to apply for the second part of the grant.

As a reminder, 2025/26 grant funding is structured in two stages:

- Part 1 (£3,000 per worker) payable once a Certificate of Sponsorship has been assigned for a worker recruited through the scheme
- Part 2 (up to £3,000 per worker) payable after 8 weeks' sustained employment, subject to eligibility and verification checks. Provider must have covered the cost of the worker's new visa.

All payments remain subject to available funding and full scheme terms and conditions – [see full details here](#).

FREE International Recruitment Webinar

Register Now!

A dark blue banner for a webinar. On the left, a green shield-shaped icon contains the text 'WEBINAR International Recruitment'. Below this is the SESC logo and the text 'Lester Aldridge'. In the center, the title 'An International Recruitment update for Adult Social Care Providers' is written in orange, followed by the date and time 'Wednesday 13 May 14:00 – 15:20 pm'. On the right, a circular portrait of Edward O'Brien is shown with the text 'Presented by' above and 'Edward O'Brien Senior Associate' below. The bottom of the banner features a reflection of the top section.

2:00 pm – 3:20 pm | Wednesday 13 May 2026

Platform: Microsoft Teams

Presented by immigration experts **Lester Aldridge Solicitors**, this session will focus on sponsorship and right-to-work issues affecting both sponsors and providers engaging sponsored workers in **supplementary employment**.

The webinar will cover:

- Recent changes to the immigration rules
- Compliance and enforcement trends, including common risk areas for sponsors
- Right to work responsibilities and **eligibility for supplementary employment**
- SESC Displaced Worker Scheme update – sponsoring in-country migrant workers and accessing grant funding

FREE for registered Adult Social Care providers operating in the South East.

[BOOK YOUR FREE PLACE](#)

SESCA Conference 2026 Book Your FREE Place!



Wednesday 24th June 2026

Sandown Park Racecourse, Esher

Our annual conference brings together senior leaders from care providers across the South East, alongside local authorities, regional Care Associations and sector partners.

Hear the latest policy developments, share best practice and explore the key challenges facing adult social care.

Confirmed guest speaker: Vic Rayner OBE, National Care Forum.

A full programme, including additional speakers and exhibitors, will be announced shortly.

FREE for registered Adult Social Care providers in the South East.

Places are limited and expected to fill quickly.

[BOOK YOUR FREE PLACE](#)

Legal Helpline – Extended!

FREE Legal Advice from Leading Immigration Specialists

Due to popular demand, we have extended our FREE legal helpline service.

Providers are entitled to a Free 30-minute, no obligation, phone consultation with an immigration specialist at Lester Aldridge Solicitors.



Phone lines are open from 9am-5pm, Mon-Fri (with an answer phone operating outside these hours).

You can also email Lester Aldridge using the dedicated address below.

Phone: 01202 786126

Email: sescahelp@LA-Law.com

The service is open to all CQC-registered adult social care providers operating in the South-East.