

ASYLUM SUPPORT ADVICE NETWORK (ASAN)

Purpose and Principals

ASAN is a national network of people who help asylum seekers, refused asylum seekers and irregular migrants access food and shelter. ASAN is coordinated by the Asylum Support Appeals Project.

Members

Members are from voluntary sector organisations, funding bodies, law firms and government bodies, such as the NHS. This includes Migrant Help; a charity contracted by the Home Office to deliver key asylum support services. Home Office and Local Authority Social Services staff are excluded from membership.

Aim

ASAN was established with the aim of sharing knowledge and experience about legal rights to food and shelter for asylum seekers, refused asylum seekers and irregular migrants.

How it works

ASAN mainly shares information about asylum support law, since this is our area of expertise. However, members are encouraged to share any information that affects ASAN's client group, described above. This might include any statutory or charitable support available to asylum seekers and refused asylum seekers, such as support provided by a Local Authority. In some cases, it also applies to support available to irregular migrants who have never claimed asylum, such as visa overstayers. ASAN communicates with members, and members communicate with each other, in the following ways:

- All ASAN members are part of a googlegroup which allows any member to email the whole network to share information and pose or answer questions from other members. See the googlegroup house rules.
- ASAN's Asylum Support Bulletins are circulated via the googlegroup.
- ASAN shares updates on asylum support law, policy and practice, and training opportunities via the googlegroup as they arise.
- ASAN members share relevant information with each other via the googlegroup as they arise.
- At least three ASAN meetings are held each year to learn from expert guest speakers and discuss issues affecting ASAN's beneficiaries.

How to join: If you would like to join please email mariana@asaproject.org.uk