
**Asylum Support Advice Network
15 August 2016, 3-5pm
Eversheds, 115 Colmore Row, Birmingham, B3 3AL**

1. Introductions and members news roundup

ASAN members give updates about their organisation and any changes to their services.

2. Asylum Support rates legal challenge

Michael Bates – Manager, Birmingham Community Law Centre

Michael is acting for one of three asylum seekers who have challenged the Home Office's rate of asylum support, arguing that £36.95 a week is not enough to meet their essential living needs. Their hearing took place on 5 July and the judgement is expected in September. Michael will talk through the case, the legal position and the hearing, sharing lessons learned and advice about strategic litigation in this area.

3. How to tackle Section 95 destitution cases

John Hillman- ASAP Research Volunteer and Anna Dixie – ASAP Legal Adviser

John will give an overview of his recent research on s95 destitution cases, which reveals a new approach by the Home Office. Anna will share ASAP's suggestions for tackling refusals of support, including:

- Fraudulent visa applications
- Further information requests and decisions not to entertain applications under s57 NIAA 2002
- Property and land abroad
- Home Office making applicants sell personal possessions

This will be followed by an open discussion on experiences and strategies.

4. A.O.B. Suggestions for location and themes of the next meeting are very welcome.