



East Midlands Councils

HKBNO
WELCOME HUB

HKBNO CONNECT

The latest national and regional updates for those who are supporting Hong Kong BNO visa holders in the East Midlands region.



TOP ITEMS THIS MONTH:

- Career Coaching for HKBNO in the East Midlands
- Updates from Funded Partners
- Nottingham's 3rd Mahjong Competition
- Robin Hood Cup
- Working in Local Government
- Financial and English Language Support

National Updates

East Midlands Welcome Hub

The UK Government have confirmed funding for Year 5 (2025/26) of the HKBNO Welcome Programme. This includes funding for the 12 hubs in the UK including East Midlands, continued funding for Barnardos and On Your Side and support for English Language and Destitution funding for local authorities.

On Your Side – Hate Crime Reporting Service

The latest On Your Side data report, covering January to December 2024, is now available. It provides an overview of the incidents reported to their service, the communities affected, and where these incidents occurred.

Between January and December, 290 incidents were reported—170 met their verification threshold, with 40 cases passed to the police at the reporter's request. On Your Side's casework advocates supported or referred 115 individuals, with the highest reporting from Hongkongers, Chinese, and Japanese communities. London, North West England, and South East England recorded the most incidents. The full report is available here: <https://www.onyoursideuk.org/on-your-side-incident-reports-jan-2024-to-dec-2024/>

National Updates

Barnardo's Wellbeing Support

Barnardo's continues to provide mental health and wellbeing support for Hongkongers in the UK, building on the offer delivered in Years 1–4 of the Hong Kong BN(O) Programme.

Support includes access to Cantonese-speaking advisors via a helpline and email, remote therapeutic counselling for adults, children and couples, and dedicated youth spaces for young people. Families can also benefit from the Virtual Family Space resource in Cantonese, alongside monthly wellbeing webinars, peer support networks, and volunteering opportunities.

Referrals are welcome from individuals and professionals via phone, email or the online referral form.

Visit the Barnardo's website here: <https://helpline.barnardos.org.uk/boloh-helpline/hong-kong-bno>

Barnardo's Hong Kong Youth Space 2025



Barnardo's is launching a friendly online space is designed especially for Hong Kong young people aged 10–13 living in the UK to connect, chat, and support each other through fun and relaxed group sessions.

This is an opportunity for children to chat, make new friends, and support each other while discussing themes such as hobbies and interests, wellbeing and happiness, and hopes and dreams.

Register here: <https://hkyouthspace2025.eventbrite.co.uk>

National Updates

Barnardo's Peer Support Group for Hong Kongers

Topic: Slang & Chill: Let's Talk British Slang!

Date: 24 June 2025 (Tuesday)

Time: 8pm – 9pm

Venue: Microsoft Teams

Ever heard some British slang that left you totally confused? Join Barnardo's for a fun and relaxed session where they explore everyday slang words and laugh along the way!

- Share British slang you've heard but never really understood
- Hear the funniest or weirdest slang others have come across

The journey of immigration is filled with challenges that go beyond adjusting to a new environment—it involves redefining one's identity, building new emotional connections, and setting fresh expectations for the future.

Join this session to uplift one another through compassionate listening, shared experiences, and mutual encouragement, we are not alone!

Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/peer-support-group-hongkongers-in-southern-england-jun-2025-tickets-1335031117009?aff=oddttdtcreator>

英格蘭南部
Hong Kongers Peer Support in Southern England

香港街坊互助谷

Slang & Chill:
一起傾吓英國俚語!

曾經聽到一些英國人講的俚語，讓您一頭霧水？這次的活動就是要輕鬆又有趣地帶大家了解這些常見的英國俚語，一起邊笑邊學！

- 分享大家聽過但太不明白的英國俚語
- 聽聽別人覺得最搞笑或最奇怪的俚語

REGISTER NOW!

日期: 24-6-2025 (星期二)
時間: 8:00-9:00 pm
地點: Microsoft Teams

Funded by UK Government **BARNARDO'S**

這項活動由 Barnardo's 香港支援熱線主辦，專為居住在英格蘭的香港英國國民（海外）人士而設。如有查詢，請電郵至 hongkong@barnardos.org.uk。

Welcome Hub Updates

Career Coaching for HKBNO in the East Midlands

Welcome Hub priorities for Year 4 are Employment and Wellbeing for Hong Kong BNO in our region. We are using Hub funding to deliver an employment support and coaching project, led by our experienced HR team.

Last month, we successfully ran a group session in Worksop, followed by a confidence-building workshop that was well attended. These sessions have already helped several participants in the area who have accessed ongoing 1-1 coaching support.

This free, personalised 1-1 career coaching to help Hong Kong BN(O) residents across the East Midlands set goals, explore opportunities, and better understand the UK job market.

Please share this opportunity with your networks and contact us on hkbno@emcouncils.gov.uk for more information.



Funded by
UK Government



East Midlands Councils
HKBNO
WELCOME HUB

職業輔導

為東米德蘭茲（**EAST MIDLANDS**）的香港籍
英國國民（海外）簽證（**BN(O)**）持有者設立

建立你的職業信心是一個循序漸進的過程，涉及到發展並鍛煉你的技能、積累經驗以及保持積極的心態。

我們能為你提供什麼幫助？



Samantha Maher
Director of HR / 人力資源總監
East Midlands Councils



Lisa Butterfill
HR Manager / 人力資源經理
East Midlands Councils

組織有針對性的1-1輔導，幫助你實現職業目標和職業追求

幫助你了解英國招聘流程，包括心理測驗和評估中心

針對你的個人需求提供量身訂製的支持

聯絡 hkbno@emcouncils.gov.uk 安排一次與我們職業輔導員的會議。

Welcome Hub Updates

Small grant funding

We are proud to support the following community-led initiatives through the East Midlands Hong Kong BN(O) Welcome Grant Scheme. Each project is working to enhance the well-being, confidence, and integration of Hong Kong BN(O) individuals and families as they build their lives in the UK.

Derby HK CIC – Conversation Club



Derby HK CIC is supporting Hong Kong BN(O) newcomers through a tailored English Conversation Club aimed at developing confidence and everyday communication skills. Based on community feedback, the club is split into two groups: one preparing for the Level B1 English exam, and another offering a relaxed environment to practise conversational English with native speakers.

So far the team at Derby HK CIC have supported 56 hongkongers over 4 separate groups to prepare for their Trinity B1 Speaking and Listening exam in a range of online and in-person classes. There are only a few places left, so if you are interested in participating contact Jeff on 07445511911.

Transform Training – Fusion Welcome Project

The Fusion Welcome Project supports the well-being and integration of young Hong Kongers aged 12–18 living in Nottinghamshire. Through weekly youth sessions, residential trips, family days, and arts-based projects, the programme helps teenagers build resilience, new social networks, and a sense of belonging. Staffed by a youth worker with lived experience and supported by trained volunteers, the project creates space for young people to express their emotions, strengthen family ties, and engage with their new community in positive ways. All activities are designed and led in collaboration with participants to promote ownership and empowerment.

Welcome Hub Updates

The project launched in March with a residential camp at the Hollowford Lindley Centre in Castleton with 20 young hongkongers attended.

The feedback from both young people and their parents was overwhelmingly positive. Many reported that the camp gave their children a rare opportunity to travel outside Nottingham, visit the scenic Peak District, and enjoy nature in a way they had never done before.

The group have also enjoyed a day trip to Matlock Bath, experiencing a scenic train journey to Cromford where they toured the Mason Mills Working Textile Museum.

The group also holds weekly sessions which focus on emotional wellbeing and social development exploring topics such as managing emotions, stress awareness, and emotional literacy – particularly important topics which reflect the challenges many young people face when adjusting to life in the UK.

If you have or know of any young hongkongers aged 12 – 18 living in Nottinghamshire who would like to join the **weekly youth club** which runs every Thursday during term time contact lorrie.l@transformtraining.org.uk.



Welcome Hub Updates

Reach, Derby and Nottingham – Building Bridges



Reach's Building Bridges project offers a comprehensive programme of activities for Hong Kong BN(O) families in Derby and Nottingham, with a potential reach of over 1,000 people. It supports integration through family events, youth sports, arts workshops, intergenerational activities, and well-being sessions.

So far 467 hongkongers have participated in surrounding wellbeing, learning new skills and physical activity such as basketball and badminton. 23 hongkongers also attended an inaugural 'music night' where they enjoyed music and shared their personal journeys and memories with one another. One participant said: "It feels great to relive our youthful days together with a group of fellow Hongkongers in the UK."

By creating inclusive spaces and linking participants to local services, employment pathways, and volunteering opportunities, the project strengthens family relationships, reduces isolation, and fosters lasting community ties.

Upcoming sessions:

- Badminton – Sunday 8 June
- Crochet Classes – Saturday 21 and 28 June
- Kick Bocking Classes – Saturday 28 June and Saturday 6 July

Find out more by visiting their Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/ReachDerby.HK>



Welcome Hub Updates

Flying Cows – TESL Volunteering programme

A 16-week programme run by Flying Cows is helping nine hongkongers build skills, gain qualifications, and give back to their communities.

The programme blends formal study with hands-on experience, including a Level 1 Award in Volunteering, a Certificate in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages), and practical volunteering as ESOL classroom assistants. Participants also benefit from tailored support and weekly drop-in sessions.

So far, most of the group have completed their volunteering qualification, with many already contributing to a range of roles including supporting library English conversation groups, hosting social clubs, or volunteering in community centres. These placements are not only giving participants valuable experience but are helping to tackle local needs by fostering integration, improving English skills and building community spirit.

Feedback from participants:

One participant said: *“I completed the volunteering course and found it very informative and practical. It gave me valuable insights into various charity organisations and how they operate. I especially enjoyed connecting with like-minded classmates during group discussions — we had great conversations and shared encouragement.”*

“Recently, I began my first volunteering placement at a library’s “Places of Welcome” programme. It’s been such a meaningful experience engaging with service users and feeling more connected to the community.”

Another said: *“I’m truly thankful for this programme. It has inspired me to continue volunteering and look for ways to support people who are struggling. Through the English course, I also came to understand that different people have specific needs and face different kinds of difficulties. This helped me become more empathetic and aware of how I can offer meaningful support to others. I hope I can use what I’ve learned to make a positive difference in the lives of others.”*

Welcome Hub Updates

Nottingham's 3rd Mahjong Competition



East Midlands Councils was proud to support the 3rd Mahjong Competition in Nottingham, hosted by [HK Notts](#), with funding provided through the HK BN(O) East Midlands Welcome Programme.

This well-attended event at Chilwell School, brought together members of the local Hong Kong community for a day of friendly competition, connection, and cultural celebration. There were over 100 attendees, with approximately half participating in the competition. With sponsorship from a fantastic range of Nottingham-based restaurants and shops, participants enjoyed exciting prizes and a warm, community-focused atmosphere.

We'd like to thank everyone who contributed to making the event a success - from organisers and volunteers to local sponsors and attendees. Events like these play an important role in building belonging and celebrating cultural heritage across the East Midlands.



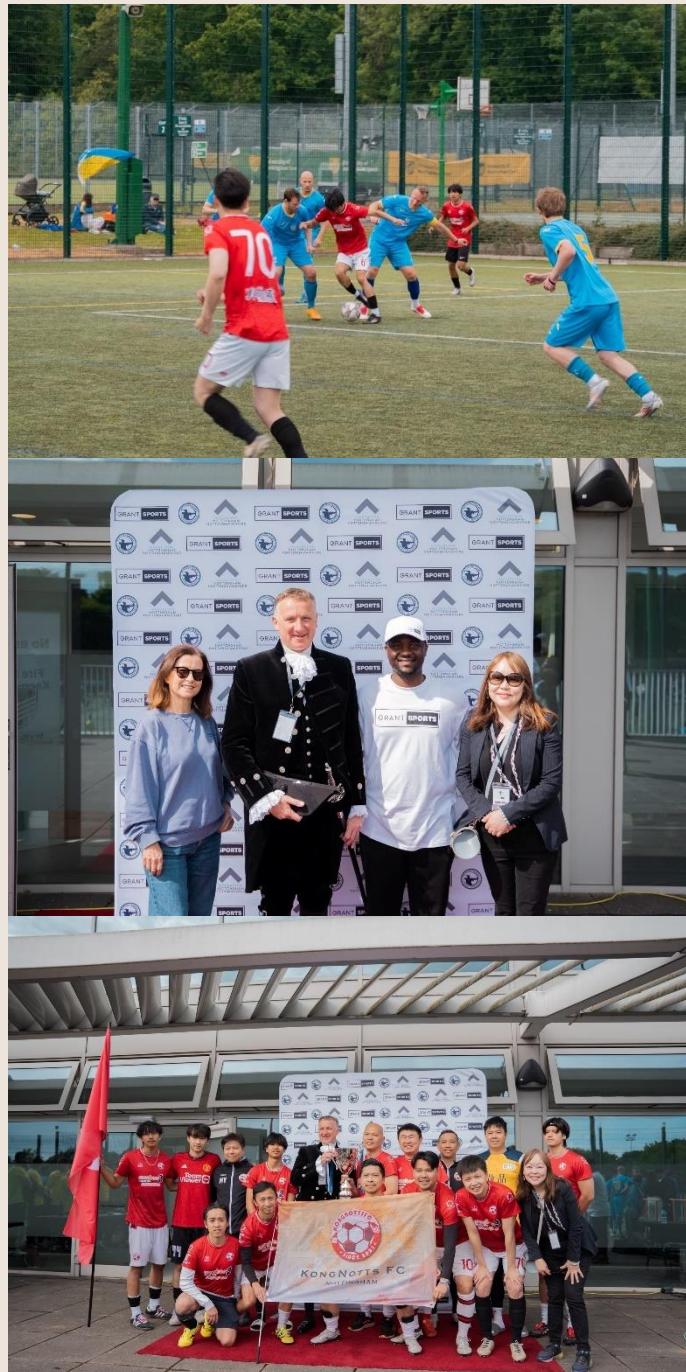
Updates from across the East Midlands

Nottingham – Robin Hood Cup

The Nottingham Robin Hood Cup, held on Monday, 26th May 2025, was a vibrant celebration of sport, culture, and community spirit. Organised by [Grant Sports](#), the event brought together football teams, performers, volunteers, and audiences from diverse backgrounds for a truly memorable day.

The tournament featured eight enthusiastic teams representing communities from Ukraine, Ghana, Brazil, Bohemia, the Red Sea region, Nigeria, Malawi and Hong Kong!

There were so many talented players, including a fantastic Hong Kong team!



Updates from across the East Midlands

Transform – Steps towards work

Free employability training for people aged 16 and over living in Broxtowe Borough and Nottingham City.

Are you feeling unsure about getting into work? We're here to help you move forward with confidence!

What's included:

- Build your confidence and develop new skills
- Learn about how to apply for a job in the UK
- Create your personal action plan for success
- Get practical support with your job search and next steps
- Access ongoing support through our friendly drop-in sessions

One-Day Training Course:

Date: Friday 11th July

Time: 10am - 3pm

Venue: The Plessey Centre, 27 Marconi Dr, Beeston, Nottingham NG9 1NX

(Free lunch & refreshments included!)

Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/transform-training-ltd-79988143833>

**Funded by
UK Government**

**建立你的技能
增強你的信心**



**想找工作但是不知道從哪裡開始?
歡迎參加我們的求職訓練課程**

- 獲得信心並培養您的技能
- 探索阻礙你前進的因素
- 設定目標並制定行動計劃
- 獲取支持，幫助您完成後續步驟
- 祇要1天的培訓課程，便可獲得持續的諮詢。

培訓課程日期：
2025年6月13日(星期五)
上午10點至下午3點，彼斯中心NG9 1NX
提供免費輕型午餐
要預訂，請掃描下面嘅二維碼。



如有查詢: 可發短訊至
Erica (香港聯絡人)
07400 242017





Working in local government

BNO finds work with local council

Hear from Alvin Lo, a Senior Infrastructure Officer in the ICT Department at Bassetlaw District Council, whose role involves delivering vital technical support and helping maintain robust digital systems across the organisation.

Originally from Hong Kong, Alvin shares how he adapted to a new professional environment and built a fulfilling career in the UK local government. From navigating cultural and structural differences to embracing a collaborative, community-focused work culture, Alvin's story offers valuable insight for others considering a similar move.

His journey shows how skills developed overseas, particularly in IT and digital transformation, can translate into real impact in UK local government.

For Alvin, working in local government offers a great mix of job satisfaction and personal well-being. He especially enjoys the strong team spirit and collaborative atmosphere.

"Working with a team of dedicated professionals who share a common goal of serving the public is highly motivating. The collaborative environment fosters creativity and innovation, making it a great place to work."

<https://hkbno.emcouncils.gov.uk/employment/building-a-career-in-uk-local-government-after-moving-from-hong-kong/>

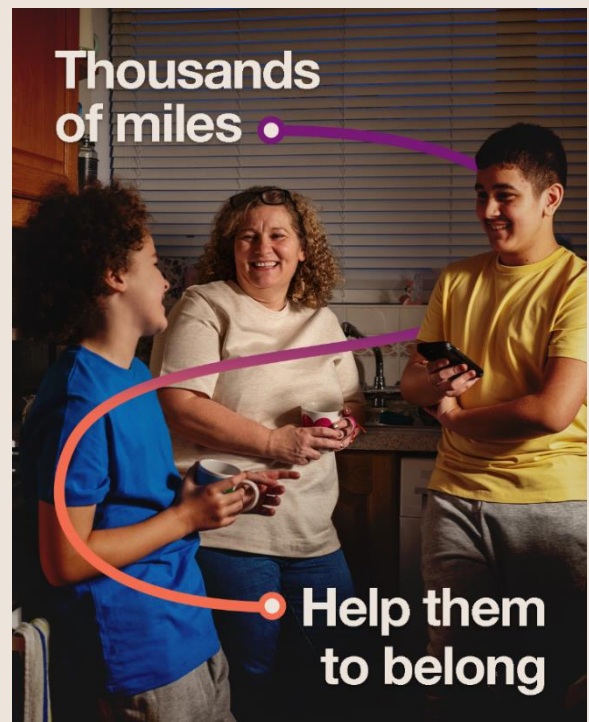
Resources

Could you foster a young person seeking safety in the UK?

East Midlands Councils is working with local authorities across the region to help recruit more foster carers for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC).

These young people arrive in the UK alone, often after fleeing conflict or persecution. They need stability, support, and a safe home where they can begin to rebuild their lives.

If you or someone you know could offer a safe and supportive home to a young person, find out more at: <http://uasc.emcouncils.gov.uk>



Resources

No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) Support

When you are granted your BN(O) visa, you will have ‘no recourse to public funds’ (NRPF). You can apply for a ‘change of conditions’ if you lose your income, are no longer able to provide food and housing for your family and become destitute. You are also entitled to financial support from your local authority while you wait for this change.

If you successfully apply for a change of conditions whilst you have a BNO visa, it will not impact your ability to apply for settlement through the BNO route after 5 years living in the UK.

Please go to our Welcome Hub page for more details and how to apply and access local authority support: <https://hkbno.emcouncils.gov.uk/immigration-and-visa-info/hong-kong-bno-visa-when-you-are-struggling-financially/>

English Language Support

There is additional funding available for local authorities to provide extra courses in the first 3 years after arrival for Hong Kong BN(O) and this can include courses to help prepare for employment such as IELTS, GCSE English and the B1 course.

At the end of the 3 years, Hong Kong BNO can access mainstream ESOL education but there may be waiting lists at local colleges.

EMC funds ‘Begin’ to help you find the right course if you live in Nottingham or Nottinghamshire.

If you live in another part of the East Midlands you will need to contact your local college to access support. If you are having any difficulties finding a course, please contact us directly.

More information can be found on our website:
<https://hkbno.emcouncils.gov.uk/english-language/>

English Language Support in Nottinghamshire

BEGIN offers free, impartial advice for adults aged 16+ who want to access English Language support in Nottinghamshire.

- Courses for all levels – from Beginner to Advanced
- Flexible study options – Morning, afternoon, or evening
- Face-to-face or online sessions available

Contact BEGIN to register & find out more: [Visit the Begin Website.](#)