

AEGIS Project Bulletin

Over the past couple of months, our team has been working hard. We've been collecting, analysing, synthesising, and cross-referencing new and existing data. We've continued our **conversations with young people** seeking asylum and refugees, learning about their priorities, experiences, and insights on what good support looks like - in health and beyond.

We've also been speaking with you: **our stakeholder community!** We're exploring the many initiatives that aim to support CYPsAR, recognising just how much excellent work is happening across the sector. Our goal is to help strengthen connections, bridge collaborations, expand our shared knowledge, and shine a light on the efforts making a real difference.

We also held our **in-person team meeting**, where we triangulated emerging findings and developed a list of themes we were eager to explore with you. This fed directly into our **second stakeholder meeting**, where we had the chance to discuss these topics together. We were so pleased to have such an engaging conversation with you all - thank you for your time, insights, and openness. We'll dive into the main discussion points below.



AEGIS in-person team meeting, October 2025

Recap of Stakeholder Meeting

What wider factors play a role in shaping CYPsAR's health?



Second stakeholder meeting, November 2025

We explored 4 main themes, where we asked you your perspectives on:

Legal challenges facing you in your work with CYPsAR:

We discussed the major legal and structural barriers affecting CYPsAR, including conflicting legislation, inconsistent application of children's rights, widespread age disputes, limited access to legal representation, and the disruptive impact of Home Office dispersal. These issues create significant challenges in clinical care, safeguarding (particularly for 16–17-year-olds), and access to education and GP services.

Do get in touch if you would like to contribute to this conversation or thoughts about what legal research we should be including in our plans.

Young people aged 18 - 25:

Many issues affecting CYPsAR will not stop when they turn 18. Beyond that is often a vulnerable period with loss of 'paediatric' health and statutory framework.

There was strong consensus that support should extend beyond age 18, as many CYPsAR-U continue to face instability, trauma, and educational disruption. Extending services up to age 25 would improve continuity, reduce harm from age disputes, address gaps in care-leaver support, and better align with developmental needs.

Providing optimal care - Health encounters and IHAs:

We explored your perspectives on what works and what doesn't in statutory, scheduled and unscheduled health encounters with CYPsAR.

You shared your experiences on how good care is trauma-informed, welcoming, and integrated. One-stop models offering joined-up physical and mental health assessments (albeit not always at the same time) were highlighted as best practice, though provision varies widely across the UK.

Key priorities include consistent pathways, access to interpreters, calm clinical environments, and maintaining continuity, despite frequent accommodation moves.

Providing optimal care - Community, education and future pathways:

Discussions emphasised that community belonging, stable accommodation, education, English language support, and pathways to work are central to wellbeing. The immigration system instability remains a major source of distress. You highlighted the impact of youth groups, sports, mentoring, and sanctuary education initiatives, and called for stronger cross-sector collaboration to support long-term outcomes.

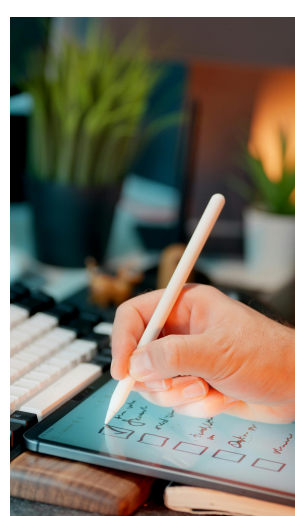
If you would like to contribute to the discussion on the above, or any other points, please do email us at uclh.aegisproject@nhs.net

Webinar Recording

If you need access, just send us a request and we'll be happy to grant it.

[Link to Webinar Recording](#)

Mapping Support for CYPsAR



We're gathering information on programmes and organisations working with children and young people seeking asylum or refugees (CYPsAR) in the UK. If your work touches on health, education, social care, youth empowerment, or related areas, we'd love to hear from you.

Share your work by completing this short survey:

[Link to Survey](#)

Want to stay in touch?

If we haven't connected before and you'd like to be added to our mailing list and contact database, please fill out the short form below. This will help us keep you in the loop and reach out occasionally if relevant opportunities or collaborations arise.

You can also email us at uclh.aegisproject@nhs.net

[Link to Contact Database](#)

