

Migrant Pathways
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Aberdeen city has a growing number of newcomers from ethnic minorities. Currently more than one in six of residents were born outside the UK.¹ In terms of building strong, cohesive communities where everyone has equal access to services, this creates a challenge for policymakers to understand what are the first steps and issues faced by migrants. This report presents the findings from the research on migrant pathways and journeys and identifies four different migrant pathways based on the purpose of arrival: work, skilled work, family and studies. Each of them has different steps and attributes. Having said that individual's experience varies with each person. This research does not aim to explain in detail how newcomers integrate in the society or how in detail they deal with every issue presented in this paper. Instead, it aims to give an overview of the main steps of newcomers in Aberdeen and what kind of general problems are faced by newcomers. These steps were identified by participants in the relevant groups, based on what they found important upon their arrival. These steps finish with the people's perception of successful integration as shown in the flowcharts.

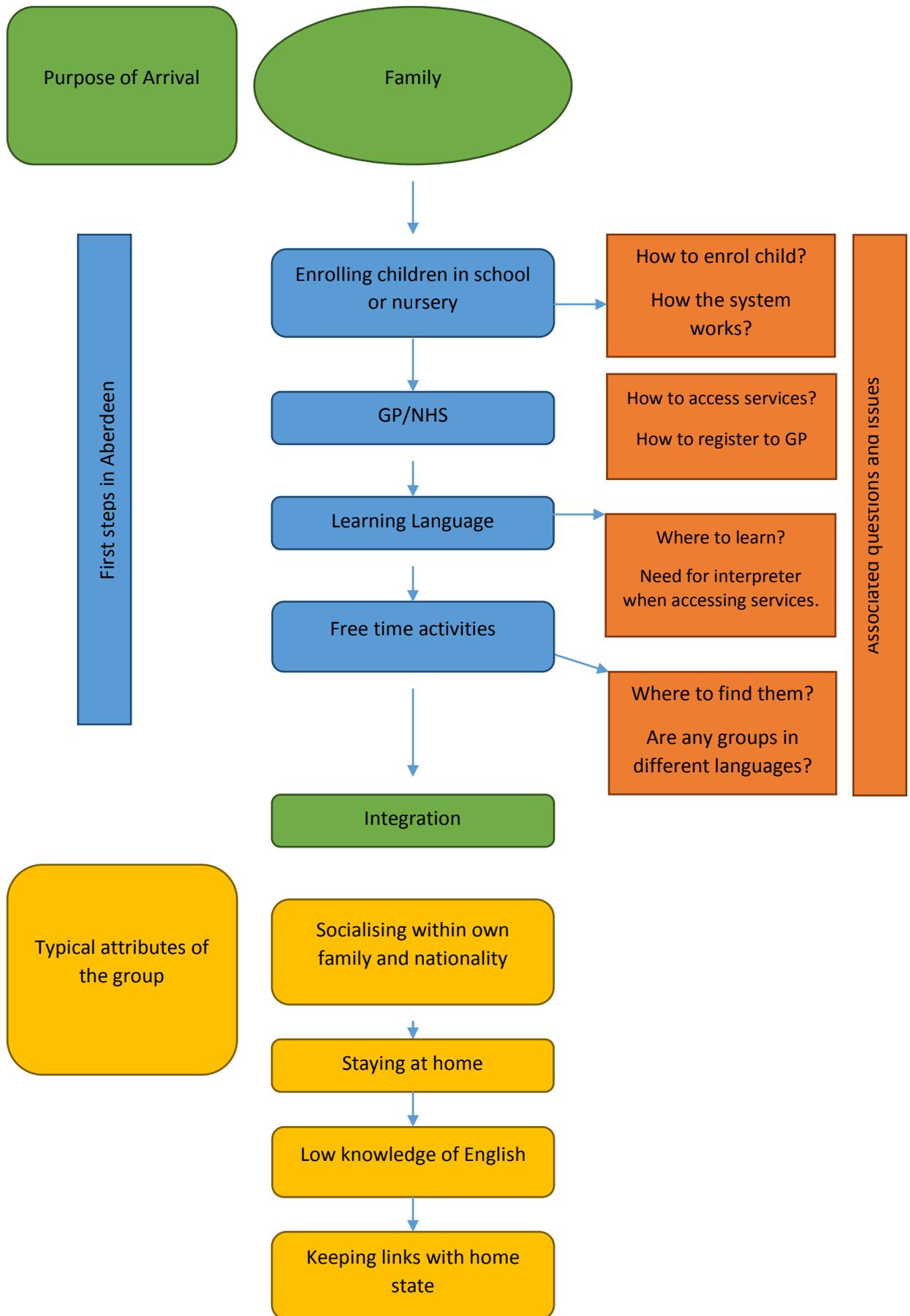
The primary data were collected through interviews with 11 members of ethnic minorities and a survey conducted with 106 people. Interviews were transcribed and coded and analysed into themes. The secondary data consisted of a literature review of studies and projects around migrants' integration experience, both conducted in Aberdeen as well as in other parts of Scotland and the United Kingdom.

The first theme was where people search for information. It comes as not a big surprise that the main source of information for newcomers is the word of mouth within their own ethnic or language community. Word of mouth is still more popular than the Internet. Participants tend to ask their friends, families or even local restaurants with their national food who to turn to. The challenging situation appeared when participants said that their friends or family were not aware of any organisations. In these cases participants said that they usually failed to acquire help on time and learnt accidentally about the right service accidentally later, when it was not required. It shows the need to not only target newcomers in Aberdeen, but long-time residents as well as they are a first contact for many people.

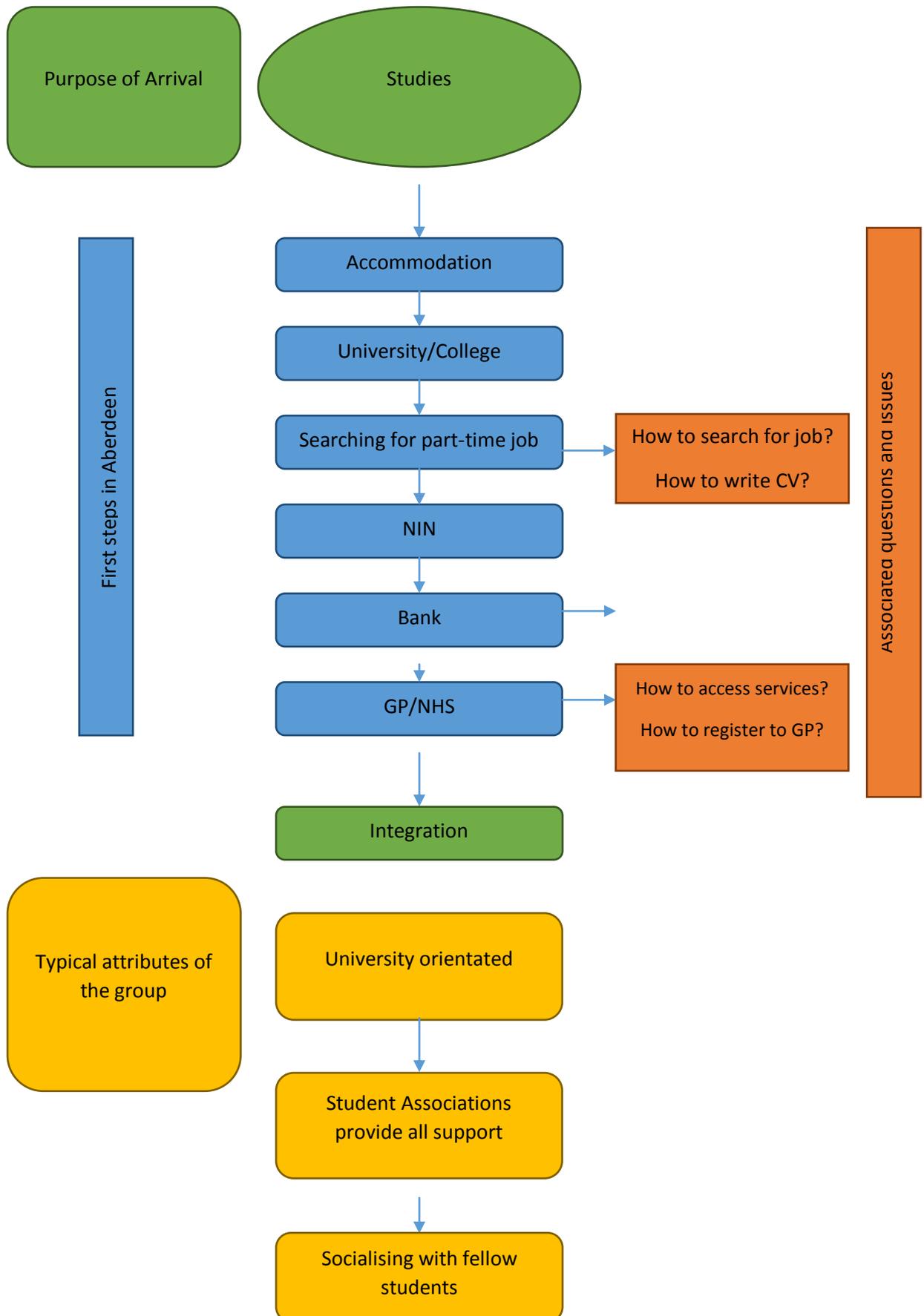
The second theme was what could have been done differently upon their first steps in Aberdeen. Participants spoke about the need to be aware where to access speakers in their native language. It could be a local charity or less official group of people who may be able to provide guidance. Moreover, participants stated that they often receive plenty of leaflets, but often they do not bother to read them unless it is needed. However, when there is an emergency such leaflets can usually not be found. Consequently, there were recommendations made by some participants to create a little poster with a link to a website or app where most popular leaflets and booklets are available so members of the public can easily access them.

¹ UK population by country of birth and nationality: 2015. Available at:
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/bulletins/ukpopulationbycountryofbirthandnationality/august2016/pdf>

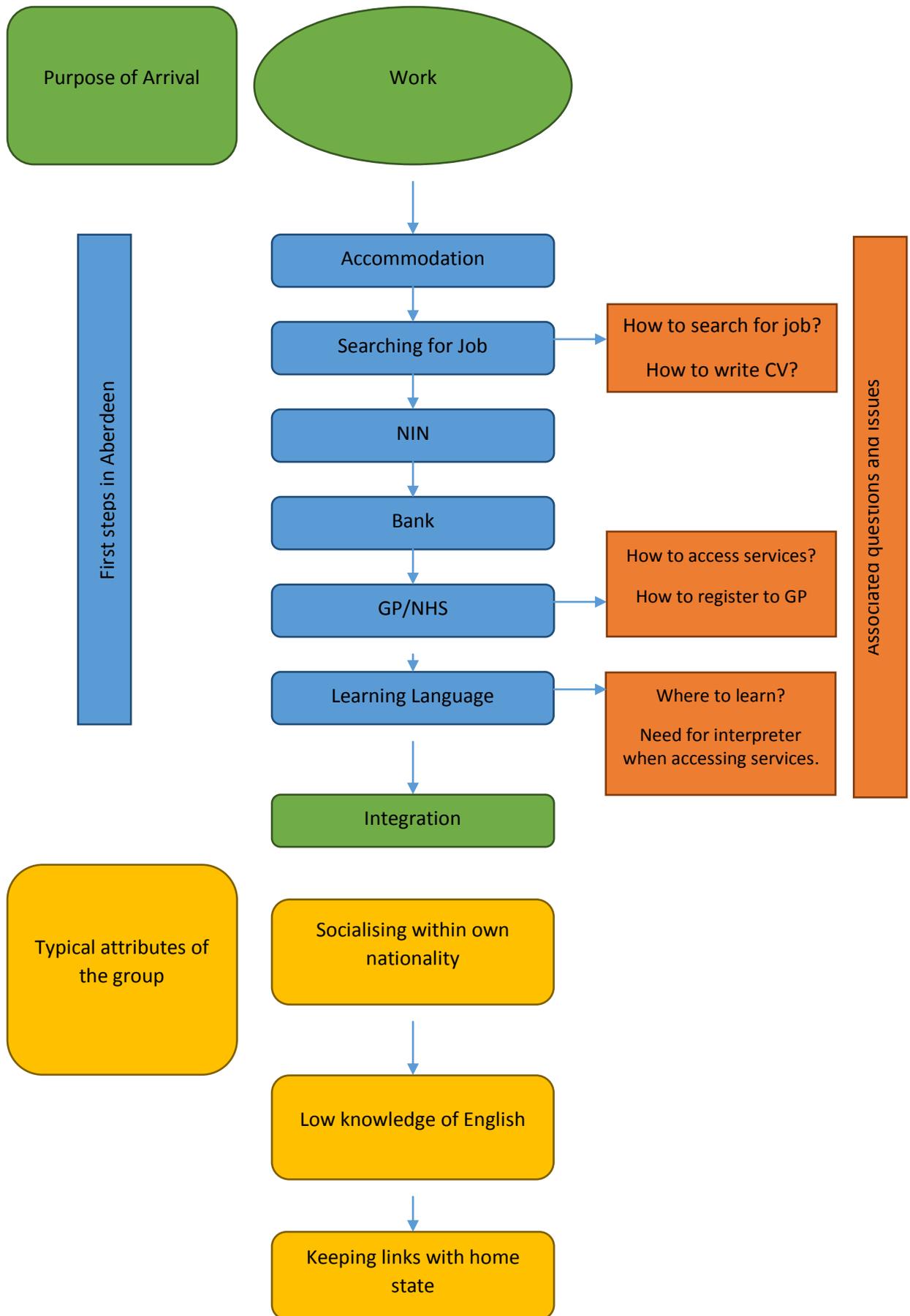
1. Family Pathway



2. Student Pathway



3. Work Pathway



4. Skilled Work Pathway

