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**Report of Head of Migration Yorkshire**

**Report to the Assistant Chief Executive (Citizens and Communities)**

**Date: 14 February 2017**

**Subject: To extend delivery of resettlement programmes in the Yorkshire and Humber region to include the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme**

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	X No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	X Yes
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	X Yes
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	X no

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**Summary of main issues**

Leeds City Council has been approached by the Home Office and Local authorities in Yorkshire and Humber to act as the regional project management and accountable body through Migration Yorkshire, to extend the current resettlement programme to incorporate the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme.

The Council will receive funding from the Home Office and then distribute it to regional partners who are helping with the resettlement programme including Yorkshire and Humber Local Authorities and third sector organisations.

**Recommendations**

That the Assistant Chief Executive (Citizens and Communities) is recommended to:

Follow on from the Key Decision of the 8th April 2016 and accept a Funding Instruction/ Grant Agreement with the Home Office to deliver the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme.

Vary the current Local Authority Partnership Agreements for the current resettlement programmes to allow for the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme (subject to any

amendments approved by the Head of Migration Yorkshire) with each of following Yorkshire and Humber Local Authorities:

- Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
- Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
- Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council
- East Riding Of Yorkshire Council
- Hull City Council
- Kirklees Metropolitan Council
- North East Lincolnshire Council
- North Lincolnshire Council
- North Yorkshire County Council
- Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
- Sheffield City Council
- Wakefield Metropolitan District Council; and
- City of York Council

Vary the grant funding agreement with third sector organisations (subject to any amendments approved by the Head of Migration Yorkshire) including the Refugee Council and any other organisations that the Head of Migration Yorkshire believes are required to deliver the resettlement programmes.

Enter into such other documents that the Head of Migration Yorkshire believes are needed to enable Leeds City Council to deliver the resettlement programmes.

All of the above are subject always to agreeing a form of Funding Instruction/ Grant Agreement from the Home Office that is reasonable in the opinion of the Head of Migration Yorkshire.

## **1 Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 The report outlines the proposal for Leeds City Council to accept grants from the Home Office to extend resettlement programmes across Yorkshire and Humber to include the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme and re-distribute the grants to local authority and third sector delivery partners.

## **2 Background information**

- 2.1 A Key decision was taken on 8 April 2016 to accept grant funding to deliver resettlement programmes in the Yorkshire and Humber region through Migration Yorkshire. This decision covered receiving and distributing grants for the Syrian Resettlement Programme of £25 - £30 million for 1,250 refugees over 8 years.
- 2.2 On 21 April 2016, the Government announced the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme to complement the Syrian Resettlement Programme in helping vulnerable people displaced by the migrant crisis. The scheme will involve resettling up to 3,000 people during this Parliament, made up of children at risk and their families from the Middle East and North Africa region.

- 2.3 The Immigration Minister wrote to Local Council Leaders on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2016 to request that they consider taking children and their families under the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme.
- 2.4 Leeds City Council agreed to participate in this scheme through a delegated decision in August 2016 to resettle families in Leeds.
- 2.5 Migration Yorkshire has been working with all the Local Authorities in Yorkshire and Humber to develop a regional response and Government and Local Authorities have requested that Migration Yorkshire manage the regional model over the lifetime of the project.

### **3 Main issues**

- 3.1 The total value of grant agreement will be over £250,000 requiring a key decision for acceptance of the grant.
- 3.2 The proposed Yorkshire & Humber Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme will see around 200 individuals arrive into the region over a period of three years. Each refugee will be supported for a period of five years, meaning the full programme will be eight years long, in the same way as under the existing Syrian Resettlement Programme.
- 3.3 The proposed programme will be project managed by Migration Yorkshire within LCC which will act as the accountable body, and the programme delivered locally by Local Authorities, in the same way as under the existing Syrian Resettlement Programme.
- 3.4 Migration Yorkshire through Leeds City Council has signed partnership agreements with 13 Local Authorities under the Syrian Resettlement Programme and a variation to these agreements will enable efficient and effective delivery of the new programme.
- 3.5 Currently some Local Authorities have opted to use the Refugee Council to deliver integration support in local areas through a regional agreement managed centrally by Migration Yorkshire. This will be extended to include the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme.
- 3.6 Funding for the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme will come from the Home Office and will be channelled through LCC for Migration Yorkshire to distribute among the Local Authorities. The total value of grants is estimated to be £4 - 5 million in total over the eight years of the project
- 3.7 Migration Yorkshire's central management role will be funded by an agreed percentage of the programme funds from each participating Local Authority.

### **4 Corporate Considerations**

- 4.1 Consultation and Engagement

4.1.1 Regular consultation and meetings are taking place with the Home Office throughout the development, negotiation and planning for the Yorkshire and Humber VCRS.

4.1.2 Regular meetings have been chaired by Migration Yorkshire for all Y&H Local Authorities as part of the consultation and planning process.

#### 4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

4.2.1 An equality, diversity, cohesion and integration screening has been undertaken which concluded that equality has been taken into account, attached as appendix 2.

#### 4.3 Council policies and City Priorities

4.3.1 This arrangement will contribute to all the 'Best city...for communities' aims in the Leeds 2030 Vision:

- People are safe and feel safe;
- The city is clean and welcoming;
- People are active and involved in their communities; and
- People get on well together;

4.3.2 It will also contribute to the 'Best city ... for communities' priority to:

- Increase a sense of belonging that builds cohesive and harmonious communities

#### 4.4 Resources and value for money

4.4.1 The grant/funding from the Home Office will provide funding for all costs during the period for which Leeds City Council and Migration Yorkshire will provide support.

#### 4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

4.5.2 This is a Key Decision due to the sums of money involved and is subject to call – in.

4.5.3 As described above, this arrangement is a response to an international humanitarian crisis. This is a voluntary arrangement with the Council, the other Yorkshire and Humber local authorities and third sector organisations that specialise in the support of refugees and conflict survivors working together to assist the UK Government to deliver on the commitments that it has made.

4.5.4 The majority of the funding is flowing from the UK Government to Local Authorities and is clearly outside the scope of procurement legislation. The Council is firmly of the view that the funding that is flowing from the Home Office to third sector organisations via the Council is grant funding. These organisations are keen to help the public sector to provide the assistance that the refugees need but they need to be funded to allow them to do so.

4.5.5 However, a third party may try to argue that some of the assistance that is being provided by the third sector is akin to a contract for services and there is therefore a possibility that there could be a challenge to the arrangement on the grounds that a public procurement process has not been followed.

4.5.6 The decision maker should consider this risk but also bear in mind that similar arrangements are currently operating in Leeds and many other parts of the UK without any challenges being raised that we are aware of. It would not be possible to respond in time to meet the UK governments' deadlines if a "belt and braces" approach was taken and a procurement exercise carried out.

## 4.6 Risk Management

4.6.1 Risk management information is contained in appendix 1.

## 5 Conclusions

5.1 Commencement of the programmes is subject to agreement to accept the Funding Instructions/grant from the Home Office.

5.2 All participating Local Authorities have committed to the delivery and regional approach outlined on commencement of Home Office funding.

5.3 The regional model allows for expertise to be shared across the region, a centralised project management function allows for one point of contact for the Home Office and more flexibility in matching cases to suitable areas for the refugees and improving potential long term integration for refugees to local communities.

5.4 Accepting funding from the Home Office for a central project management role allows Local Authorities to concentrate on the delivery of the programme, ensures consistency and good quality standards are maintained and monitored across the region. It also allows for measuring of integration outcomes across the Local Authorities, successes and lessons learnt to feed into future refugee arrivals

## 6 Recommendations

6.1 That the Assistant Chief Executive (Citizens and Communities) is recommended to:

6.1.1 Follow on from the Key Decision of the 8th April 2016 and accept a Funding Instruction/ Grant Agreement with the Home Office to deliver the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme.

6.1.2 Vary the current Local Authority Partnership Agreements for the current resettlement programmes to allow for the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme (subject to any amendments approved by the Head of Migration Yorkshire) with each of following Yorkshire and Humber Local Authorities:

- Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

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- Hull City Council
- Kirklees Metropolitan Council
- North East Lincolnshire Council
- North Lincolnshire Council
- North Yorkshire County Council
- Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
- Sheffield City Council
- Wakefield Metropolitan District Council; and
- City of York Council

6.1.3 Vary the grant funding agreement with third sector organisations (subject to any amendments approved by the Head of Migration Yorkshire) including the Refugee Council and any other organisations that the Head of Migration Yorkshire believes are required to deliver the resettlement programmes.

6.1.4 Enter into such other documents that the Head of Migration Yorkshire believes are needed to enable Leeds City Council to deliver the resettlement programmes.

6.1.5 All of the above are subject always to agreeing a form of Funding Instruction/ Grant Agreement from the Home Office that is reasonable in the opinion of the Head of Migration Yorkshire.

## **7 Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

### **Appendix 1 – Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Screening**

### **Appendix 2 – Risk management**

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<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.