

Report of: Head of Migration Yorkshire

Report to: Chief Officer Communities

Date: 25th Jan 2018

Subject: To enter into a contract arrangement with An Invisible Man Company to deliver a theatre production based on Syrian refugee stories of resettlement in the Yorkshire and the Humber region.

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

Summary of main issues

1. To seek authorisation to fund a theatre and media arts company, An Invisible Man. As part of the resettlement monitoring and evaluation project, agree to fund the company to engage with refugees and produce a play based on refugee stories in Yorkshire and the Humber, raising awareness of refugee issues to communities and young people.

Recommendations

That the Chief Officer Communities is recommended to waive CPRs 8.1 & 8.2 and to enter into a contract with theatre company An Invisible Man. The value of the contract being £26,000.

Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To seek approval to enter into an agreement with An Invisible Man to produce a touring play based on resettlement refugee stories.

2 Background information

- 2.1 Monitoring, evaluation and raising-awareness form part of Migration Yorkshire's regional project management role.
- 2.2 The regional resettlement programme is now in its second year, with over 1000 Syrian and those settled under the Vulnerable Children's scheme now in Yorkshire and the Humber.
- 2.3 In order to evaluate and raise awareness of the issues for newly resettled refugees, a number of activities will take place and findings fed into a report on the 'Experience of Resettled Refugees in Yorkshire and the Humber'

3 Main issues

- 3.1 As part of the monitoring and evaluation of the resettlement projects, the LA partners (partnership agreement lead officers) through the sub group meeting have agreed that using theatre and arts to engage with and hear the voice of the most vulnerable clients will support the projects aim to gather feedback on how resettlement is working in Yorkshire and the Humber and use this medium to raise awareness in the form of production of a play. The play will be performed to audiences including school children and communities where the resettled refugees reside.
- 3.2 The theatre and arts company production will form part of the monitoring and evaluation, with the aims of:
 - measuring integration success
 - raising awareness of refugee issues
 - empowering and giving refugees a voice
 - learning from the programme and developing the services offered
- 3.3 A waiver of CPRs 8.1 and 8.2 and direct appointment of An Invisible Man is required because this company have proven sensitivities around community interaction, provide the format we require and can deliver to our timescale.
- 3.4 They have 15 years' experience of working with people, often vulnerable, to safely and sensitively draw out and re-frame stories for an audience meaning they are experts in this field of applied theatre practice and are trusted and have been re-commissioned by many local authorities and public bodies to create work for them.
- 3.5 They have the skills and experience of delivering in the school setting. Since 2010 they have been writing and delivering plays to inform challenge and educate year

9, 10 and 11 audiences nationally, right across the UK and performed plays to well in excess of 40,000 young people.

3.6 With the director acting as the researcher, writer, director and also one of the actors in the company's eventual theatre work, it means that the quality of the work retains a focus throughout, from start to end, but is also adaptable enough to react positively and timely to any changes met in the process.

3.7 The director performs several concomitant roles which means that the time process of creating the work is able to be tighter and far more cost effective than working in a "creative committee" where a baton of work is passed along. The price reflects this layering of creative roles, which makes the process cost effective and provides value for money.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.8 Consultation and Engagement

4.8.1 Regular meetings take place in the form of Regional Resettlement Board meetings and sub group meetings. As part of the research and consultation into what form the monitoring and evaluation should take, LA's and the refugee voluntary sector were involved in meetings. National and international organisations were involved in discussions regarding previous forms of evaluation of such programmes, as well as other English Strategic Migration Partnerships and previous outcomes reviewed.

4.9 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

4.9.1 The aims of the evaluation are to highlight community cohesion and settlement issues on the ground for refugees and host communities and improve integration services in the future.

4.10 Council policies and the Best Council Plan

4.10.1 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.

4.11 Resources and value for money

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

4.11.2 Officers are satisfied that the price represents value for money and is in line with the market for these services.

4.12 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

4.12.1 This is a significant operation decision. This report does not contain confidential information.

4.12.2

4.12.3 There are no known legal implications of this waiver.

4.13 Risk Management

4.13.1 The Resettlement Project Manager and other members of the Monitoring and Evaluation sub group will be working closely with the director of An Invisible Man Company throughout the exercise and this will mitigate any risk that the play is not reflecting refugee voices and is keeping to timescales. Refugees involved in the project and telling their stories of integration in Y & H will be supported by their caseworkers from Refugee Council or the LA to ensure refugees understand the nature of the project and how the information they give may be used. All refugees will have explained to them the nature of the project and that all information gathered for the play will be anonymised. Any photographs or filmed elements used will only be done with a signed consent document.

5 Conclusions

5.1 The inclusion of arts and theatre as a part of the monitoring, evaluation and awareness raising activities will form a valuable part of empowering refugee to have a voice and be included in the development of the integration programme.

6 Recommendations

6.1 That the Chief Officer Communities is recommended to waive CPRs 8.1 & 8.2 and to enter into a contract with theatre company An Invisible Man. The value of the contract being £26,000.

7 Background documents¹

7.1 None.

¹ 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.