

**Report of Head of Migration Yorkshire**

**Report to Chief Officer Communities**

**Date: 14 May 2018**

**Subject: Extend grant funding arrangements with third sector providers to deliver resettlement programmes in the Yorkshire and 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**

Through a Key Decision taken on 8 April 2016, the Assistant Chief Executive (Citizens and Communities) authorised accepting grant funding from the Home Office for distribution to a number of Yorkshire and Humber local authorities and third sector organisations for the purposes of operating the resettlement programme.

A further decision was taken on May 2016 to enter into grant agreements with Refugee Council and Refugee Education Training and Advice service (RETAS). Authority to extend the grant funding arrangements with these third sector providers is now requested.

**Recommendations**

The Chief Officer Communities is recommended to:

- Continue to fund third sector providers the Refugee Council and RETAS (Refugee Education Training and Advice Service) to provide regional and local support under the resettlement programme.
- Allow the third sector providers to extend the scope of their support to cover the Vulnerable Children’s Resettlement Scheme (VCRS) in addition to the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS), and to extend the period of support for refugee to five years from date of arrival under both the VCRS and VPRS.
- Enter into a grant funding agreement with the Refugee Council for a value of £4.2m and RETAS for £476K each with a term of Dec 2017 to 30th Dec 2024.

- Such agreements to be a form approved by the Head of Migration Yorkshire.

### **Purpose of this report**

- 1.1** To seek approval to enter into various agreements required to deliver the resettlement programme.

### **2 Background information**

- 2.1** Through a Key decision taken on 8 April 2016, available to view at <https://democracy.leeds.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=43302>, the Assistant Chief Executive (Citizens and Communities) authorised accepting grant funding from the Home Office for distribution to a number of Yorkshire and Humber local authorities and third sector organisations for the purposes of operating a resettlement programme with the total value of the grants being £25m to £30m over eight years.
- 2.2** A further decision was taken on May 2016 to enter into grant agreements with the Refugee Council for a value of £3.7m and Refugee Education Training and Advice service (RETAS) for £105K each with a term of April 2016 to 01 November 2019.

### **3 Main issues**

- 3.1** As described in the Key Decision report, the third sector has offered to assist with the resettlement programme and provide essential specialist support to refugees fleeing conflict and torture, but needs to be funded to enable them to do this.
- 3.2** Following the Home Office announcement of the VCRS and the extension to funding for 5 years integration support, Migration Yorkshire has developed an Integration Framework for LA's and model of support for years 2-5.
- 3.3** The Refugee Council will continue to provide their specialist support across a number of Local Authority areas in Yorkshire and the Humber.
- 3.4** RETAS will continue to provide their specialist refugee knowledge and experience of running ESOL and refugee employment advice in Leeds.
- 3.5** This funding will allow the third sector providers to extend the scope of their support to cover the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme (VCRS) in addition to the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS). It will also extend the period of support for refugee to five years from date of arrival under both the VCRS and VPRS.
- 3.6** The total value and term of the grant to the Refugee Council and RETAS required to enable them to provide specialist support to persons involved in the resettlement programme has now been finalised. This is entirely funded through the Home Office funding instruction.
- 3.7** The documentation required to distribute the grants monies is now in its final form subject to any final amends approved by the Head of Migration Yorkshire.

## **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 Y&H SRP.

4.1.2 Regular meetings have been chaired by Migration Yorkshire for all Y&H LA's 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 was undertaken for the original Key Decision report, dated 23 March 2016, which concluded that equality has been taken into account. This is attached for reference at appendix 2.

### **4.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan**

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**

4.5.1 This is a Significant Operational Decision that is consequential to a previous Key Decision taken on 08 April 2016 and is not subject to call-in.

### **4.6 Risk Management**

4.6.2 Please see appendix 1 for full details.

## **5 Conclusions**

5.1 The assistance of the organisations outlined in this report is essential for the delivery of the resettlement programme in Yorkshire and Humber.

## **6 Recommendations**

6.1 The Chief Officer Communities is recommended to

- Continue to fund third sector providers British Refugee Council and RETAS (Refugee Education Training and Advice Service) to provide regional and local support under the resettlement programme.

- Allow the third sector providers to extend the scope of their support to cover the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme (VCRS) in addition to the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS), and to extend the period of support for refugee to five years from date of arrival under both the VCRS and VPRS.
- Enter into a grant funding agreement with the Refugee Council for a value of £4.2m and RETAS for £476K each with a term of Dec 2017 to 30th Dec 2024.
- Such agreements to be a form approved by the Head of Migration Yorkshire.

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

### **7.1 None.**

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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.