

From: Croft, Charlie
Sent: 14 March 2016 11:19
To: Croft, Charlie
Subject: Fairness and Equalities Board 16 March 2016: Update on Refugees

- So far, 1,000 Syrians have been resettled in the UK under the Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme. These all arrived before Christmas to 'trailblazer' authorities- mainly to LAs are already involved in various dispersal schemes, such as Gateway. Leeds, Hull, Sheffield, Calderdale and Kirklees were the only LAs in the Yorks and Humber region to participate as trailblazers- all these already operate dispersal schemes.
- In January the home office announced a 'slow down' in order to establish regional partnership arrangements for Syrian resettlement to ensure a consistent and a co-ordinated approach across LAs.
- In the Yorks and Humber region, all LAs (except Bradford who deliver through Horton Housing) are working in partnership with Migration Yorkshire (MY). MY has been providing strategic leadership and local support on migration and asylum issues across the region for many years.
- MY are commissioning the Refugee Council to provide some aspects of initial integration support across the region. The Refugee Council has a lot of experience in this area. They are a national organisation with legal support, interpreters and established links to DWP and health. They already deliver dispersal schemes locally in Leeds, Sheffield and Hull. Parallel and on-going local support will be delivered through partnership with local voluntary and religious groups. CYC will provide ESOL and housing support.
- We are still waiting for confirmation of arrival date from the home office. The latest provisional date for a charter flight into the region is the end of April.

- York is the only 'new' LA in the region ready to accept arrivals on the first flight- all other LAs who will be taking families at that stage are those that are already involved in supporting asylum seekers through Gateway and other programmes. This demonstrates the strength of local partnerships and commitment.
- Ongoing, we anticipate welcoming groups of 3 families at 6 monthly intervals. Private housing will be used to accommodate families.
- A fundraising group has been established to work to increase funds held by 2 Ridings, and administer the distribution of funds raised.