

Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children

People Scrutiny
21st November 2016



Purpose

1. To update Scrutiny on the numbers of unaccompanied asylum seeking children in Bristol and the plans to accommodate children from Europe
2. To update Scrutiny on the numbers of Syrian Refugees accommodated within the city and the plans to commission housing and support from the third sector
3. To update Scrutiny on partnership arrangements and proposed governance for refugee and asylum seeker work going forward
4. To consult Scrutiny on the proposed approach to developing a City of Sanctuary Strategy
5. To update scrutiny on the financial challenges for this work



Contents

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Areas of work

Syria

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children (UASC)

Calais

Current asylum seekers and refugees

Bristol approach to date

Current activity

Funding

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Going forward



The vision

Our Bristol - Promote Bristol as a City of Sanctuary

“We will be a welcoming city that has a clear strategic approach to supporting refugees and asylum seekers in partnership with refugee organisations”



Syria UK response

- 1 £1.2bn allocated to Syrian crisis since 2012
 - over 20 million food rations, each of which feeds one person for one month
 - provided access to clean water for 1.6 million people
 - over 2.4 million medical consultations in Syria and the region.
- 1 5000 refugees and asylum seekers from Syria since 2011
- 1 The Syrian Vulnerable Person Relocation (VPR) Scheme:
VPR scheme first launched in January 2014, expanded in September 2015 to resettle up to 20,000 Syrians in need of protection during this Parliament

The scale of need

1 Syria

- Over 13.5m people – including 6m children in Syria in need of humanitarian assistance.
- 4.3m Syrian refugees in region (Egypt, Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan and Turkey)

1 UASC (UK data – the Refugee Council)

- 3253 applications for asylum – 67% increase from previous year
- 90% applicants are male
- 700 age assessments – 68% showed applicant was over 18

The facts - UASC

- 1 Section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016
 - Voluntary
 - Children registered in Greece, Italy or France before 20 March will be eligible for UK resettlement
 - Government still to must publish a National Action Plan

- 1 Transfer Scheme
 - UASC transfer from SE England
 - Funding Circa £100 daily rate
 - Accommodation, education, foster carers, safeguarding, health care
 - July 2016

- 1 Children at Risk Scheme
 - Voluntary
 - Family /sibling groups with children at risk, some UASC from Syria and other conflict areas MENA
 - Voluntary scheme to resettle 3000
 - Autumn 2016



Building on the Bristol Model



- 1 Coproduction with Citizens UK and refugee charities/organisations
- 1 Accommodation challenges
- 1 Securing HO funding
- 1 Resettlement Partnership and steering group
 - Project Board & City-wide Forum
 - Welcome Committee
 - The Haven – Health care
 - Child and Family Services
 - Education & Employment
 - Hometurf – housing management

Bristol model (2)

The Bristol Partnership Model for Integration

Tier 1 – Arrival (Help to help yourself)

Tier 2 – Orientation (Help when you need it)

Tier 3 – Integration (Help to live your life well)



Current activity

- **Syrian Vulnerable Person's Scheme**
 - Ambition : 25 Families, 100 people per year (December 10 families 47 people)
 - 4 properties in pipeline
- **Asylum Seeker Team**
 - 52 unaccompanied Asylum Seeker children
 - 3 Dubs, 10 within 6 weeks
 - 3 Dublin
 - 11 asylum seekers supported by adult social care
 - Supporting 50-60 families – subsistence payments
- **Bristol volunteer and civic society**
 - Support at least 400 refugees and asylum seekers
 - City of Sanctuary Strategy

Bristol City Council Expenditure

Neighbourhoods

- Investments and Grants Team/Impact fund - Bristol Refugee Rights and Refugee Women of Bristol a total of £75,000 pa. New grants process 2016/17

People

- The Asylum Team's projected spend on supporting families and asylum seekers with community care needs is £1.2m in 2016-17, which is an overspend against a budget of £0.9m

UASC initiative has created a cost pressure of £414k (before grant funding)

Syrian VPR Grant

- £15k per person. Tapers down over five years. Funding to schools and NHS funding via existing per capita mechanism – slight surplus in this grant



Lessons learned

- 1 Co-production
- 1 Brilliant cross Council working
- 1 Partnership engagement
- 1 Agile
- 1 Agree and stick to messages
- 1 Complex hierarchy
- 1 Working with the media
- 1 Pledges



Moving forward and city wide plans

- 1 Detailed and costed business case which might include
 - Single governance structure
 - Assess feasibility of Urban Innovative Actions
 - Continue with Syrian Programme – commissioning a support service. Support Citizens UK 25 homes 100 lives
 - Co-produce a programme for UASC
 - Developing and delivering a City of Sanctuary Strategy

