

EE36. Update on Syrian Vulnerable Persons Scheme

The Emergency Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services which provided an update on the Council's involvement in the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme. Approval was sought to participate in the new Resettlement Scheme which amalgamated the three largest existing Home Office Resettlement schemes.

The Council agreed to participate in the Syrian Vulnerable Person Resettlement Scheme in December 2015 and pledged to welcome 60 people over a 5 year period. So far the Council had welcomed 54 refugees, with a final family to arrive once Covid restrictions were lifted to complete the initial pledge.

The Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme and Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme were due to conclude at the end of March 2020. Going forward there would be amalgamation of the largest resettlement schemes into a new global resettlement scheme called the UK Resettlement Scheme. COSLA was engaging with Scottish Councils on their commitment to the resettlement programmes beyond 2020 and the end of the current resettlement schemes.

The new UK Resettlement Scheme was a work in progress but the current information available was:-

- The three largest resettlement schemes would be replaced by one broad global scheme to bring consistency of provision for all refugees resettled in the UK while broadening the geographical focus of current schemes beyond the Middle East and North Africa;
- The funding tariff that was currently in place was confirmed for 2020/21, along with the provision of additional funding for exceptional cases;
- Current levels of resettlement would be sustained;
- The scheme would continue on a voluntary basis;
- The scheme would continue to be based on United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees vulnerability criteria.

COSLA anticipated that the request from UK Government would be that Scotland resettle approximately 10% of all those being resettled in the UK. Based on Falkirk Council's previous pro rata pledge, this equated to resettling 15 people in Year 1 of the new scheme.

Decision

The Emergency Executive:-

- (1) noted the work carried out in Support of the Vulnerable Persons Refugee Programme in Falkirk, and**

- (2) agreed that Falkirk Council participate in the new Global Resettlement scheme on the same pro rata basis, subject to the same level of funding being confirmed by the Home Office.**