

EX93. Resettlement of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services which provided an update on the Council's participation in the UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS) and the Scottish Government's 'Ending Destitution Together' strategy.

Over 3000 refugees had been resettled across Scotland under the Vulnerable Person Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) and the associated Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme (VCRS). A breakdown of the resettlement activity in the Falkirk area was provided in an appendix to the report.

The UKRS had replaced the VPRS & VCRS schemes and would have a global focus beyond the Middle East and North African region. It would support those who would most benefit from resettlement in the UK, which included:-

- those requiring urgent medical treatment;
- survivors of violence and torture;
- women and children at risk;
- those living in formal refugee camps, informal settlements and host communities.

The three key actions for this area of work were delivered by the Refugee Resettlement Team, who worked with a range of internal and external partners. The Resettlement Team comprised a Resettlement Officer and a Resettlement Support Worker, on temporary contracts until March 2022. It was proposed that the posts were embedded into the Housing & Communities Service staffing structure as permanent posts. To meet the increased demands of the Scottish Government's Ending Destitution Strategy, additional staffing resource was required. It was proposed that the Team expanded to include one temporary additional Support Worker as required.

Decision

The Executive agreed:-

- (1) that the current resettlement team become a permanent Service, and**
- (2) to continue participation in current and future resettlement schemes, subject to agreement.**