

North Yorkshire County Council

Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee

2 March 2020

North Yorkshire Refugee Resettlement

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To provide an update and progress report on the resettlement in North Yorkshire of people resettled under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) and persons resettled under the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme (VCRS).
- 1.2 To provide an overview of the government's global resettlement scheme.

2 Background

- 2.1 The number of refugees worldwide is calculated to be the highest ever at 25.9 million¹ and since 2017 refugees have made up almost one per cent of the global population for the first time in modern history. Low to middle income countries host 85% of the world's refugees under UNHCR's mandate² with nine of the top ten refugee-hosting countries being in developing regions³.
- 2.2 Between July 2016 to February 2018 the eight local authorities in North Yorkshire received 238 refugees (50 families) combined under the Home Office's Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) and Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme (VCRS).
- 2.3 In June 2019 the Home Secretary wrote to Parliament to reaffirm the commitment to the resettlement of refugees beyond the conclusion of the VPRS and VCRS in 2020. A letter outlining the details was subsequently sent to Council leaders to seek local authorities' participation in the new scheme, as attached in **Appendix A**. Further details about the new scheme (provisionally called the 'global resettlement scheme') is attached in **Appendix B**.
- 2.4 All North Yorkshire local authorities have confirmed their commitment to participate in the global resettlement scheme over the next four years.

¹ Source: UNHCR 19 June 2019

² UNHCR Global Trends 2017

³ UNHCR Global Trends 2018

3 Original offer, numbers arrived and remaining in North Yorkshire: VPR and VCRS schemes

- 3.1 The numbers resettled were 209 persons under the VPRS and 29 persons under the VCRS (238 refugees in total).
- 3.2 The reception of refugees took over 18 months. Families were typically two adults and three children. Most of the children were primary school aged. As at February 2020, of those originally resettled in North Yorkshire seven families (34 persons) have moved out of the county. Reasons for moving have been primarily to live closer to relatives or to take-up employment rather than because of the rural nature of the county; the latter risk was managed by resettling a number of families within the same town in each district. The nationalities of the VCRS families resettled were Sudanese and Iraqi. The resettlement schedule is contained in **Appendix C**.
- 3.3 Just under 30% of the families included family members with complex needs. The complexity of need varied widely from people with some mobility issues to severely disabled adults and children including children with genetic disorders and life-limiting illnesses.

Table 1: UNHCR resettlement categories by case (VPR and VCRS) – North Yorkshire

	Survivors of violence & torture	Legal and/or physical protection needs	Children and adolescents at risk	Lack of Foreseeable Alternative Durable Solutions	Women and girls at risk	Medical needs
Primary submission category	12	19	11		1	3
Secondary submission category	5	16		10		

- 3.4 Experience has shown that where the bulk of families were received early on within a district's resettlement programme, it provided a stronger network for the families from the start. It was also easier to manage resources than having arrivals stretched out across several flights. However, the local housing supply and suitability of an area to resettle the families ultimately determined the pace of resettlement.
- 3.5 The commitment given by Prime Minister David Cameron in 2015 to resettle 20,000 people under the VPRS by May 2020 is on course to be achieved. As at the end of September 2019, the United Kingdom had resettled 18,252 persons under the VPRS. Corresponding figures in relation to the commitment given by the government to resettle 3,000 persons under the VCRS were 1,712 as at the end of September 2019.

Table 2: Resettlement of refugees under the VPRS (September 2019)

Region/nation	Total resettled	% of national total	Population (2018 Mid-Year Estimates)	Resettled refugees per 100,000 population
East Midlands	818	4%	4.804,149.000	17
East of England	856	5%	6.201,214.000	14
London	913	5%	8.908,081.000	10
North East	1,365	7%	2.657,909.000	51
North West	1,643	9%	7.292,093.000	23
Northern Ireland	1,561	9%	1.881,641.000	83
Scotland	3,048	17%	5.438.100.000	56
South East	1,745	10%	9.133.625.000	19
South West	1,373	8%	5,599,735.000	25
Wales	1,219	6%	3.138,631.000	39
West Midlands	1,800	10%	5.900,757.000	31
Yorkshire and The Humber	1,911	10%	5.479,615.000	35
Total	18,252	100%	66.435,550.000	28

Table 3: Regional breakdown under the VCRS (September 2019)

Region/nation	Total resettled	% of national total	Population (2018 Mid-Year Estimates)	Resettled refugees per 100,000 population
East Midlands	32	2%	4.804,149.000	1
East of England	89	5%	6.201,214.000	1
London	78	5%	8.908,081.000	1
North East	288	17%	2.657,909.000	11
North West	130	8%	7.292,093.000	2
Northern Ireland	0	0%	1.881,641.000	0
Scotland	246	14%	5.438.100.000	5
South East	76	4%	9.133.625.000	1
South West	134	8%	5,599,735.000	2
Wales	88	5%	3.138,631.000	3
West Midlands	153	9%	5.900,757.000	3
Yorkshire and The Humber	398	23%	5.479,615.000	7
Total	1,712	100%	66.435,550.000	3

4 Support provided

4.1 Housing

4.1.1 A range of housing types were used in North Yorkshire including private rented, social housing and council housing.

4.1.2 We were fortunate in being able to make use of vacant council houses with existing adaptations to allow us to resettle families with physically disabled children or adults - one of the key selection criteria that the UNHCR/Home Office uses for prioritising families to come to the UK.

4.1.3 Where private housing was used to the exclusion of social or council housing this presented a number of problems:

- Private rented properties were usually unaffordable for the families either due to rents in excess of the Local Housing Allowance, and/or benefit capping which meant in some areas that families received a maximum of £0.50p per week in benefit toward their housing costs. This resulted in the relevant district council having to pay the rents via the Discretionary Housing Payments Scheme.
- The predominant use of private rented property slowed down the speed of the resettlement significantly in terms of numbers of families being able to be accepted from each flight.
- The use of private rented property proved to be more time-consuming in relation to the day-to-day management of the properties beyond Year 1 when the Refugee Council's housing support function no longer continues but where families might require ongoing tenancy support.
- Due to the affordability issues, some families have had to move after their first 12 months in the UK. House moves result in additional costs and can also be unsettling for the families concerned, coming on top of the upheavals they faced prior to being resettled in the United Kingdom.
- There are less opportunities to resettle families with complex mobility needs using private rented property. This is because private landlords understandably might be unwilling for the necessary adaptations to be made to their property.

4.1.4 45 properties were used for the initial resettlement of the families, with three bedroomed properties in greatest demand. There have subsequently been 13 house moves within the county, involving either the whole family or individual family members moving out of the original property allocated to them.

4.2 Schools

4.2.1 North Yorkshire County Council's English as an Additional Language Service has supported the children and families to settle into school, including providing language support through recruiting Arabic-speaking specialist advanced teaching assistants. This support to school continues into Years 2 and 3 of a child's arrival in the UK. This is at a reduced level but schools have the optioning of buying in additional support if required.

4.2.2 In most cases children have been able to secure a school place at their nearest school or an alternative school within their local catchment area. Delays of getting children in school have arisen where a child had a disability or a complex need, or in relation to secondary school aged-children, particularly post-16 year olds in Scarborough district, due to the poor level of ESOL⁴ provision at the local FE

⁴ ESOL is used to describe English language learning and teaching to learners whose first language is not English. There are five different levels of ESOL, from beginner to intermediate. The first three levels are for learners without much prior knowledge of English, and are called Entry 1 (E1), Entry 2 (E2), and Entry 3 (E3). Level 1 and Level 2 ESOL are intermediate ESOL classes, and learners gain

college. York and Harrogate Colleges have however provided a comprehensive level of ESOL provision and also access to ‘taster’ vocational courses for the post-16 year olds able to enrol there.

- 4.2.3 A number of schools are continuing to rely heavily on the County Council’s English as an Additional Language Service to communicate back to the parents of the refugee pupils, a wide range of school-related matters. This includes parents who have been in the UK for over three years now but still have a relatively poor understanding of the English language. This is not sustainable beyond Year 1 of a family’s arrival particularly as the EAL service has reduced capacity. Schools will continue to be encouraged to make more direct contact with the parents and arrange their own means of communication including interpretation and translation services if required. Schools are provided with an education grant from the Home Office in Year 1 of a family’s arrival and can also access other funding streams such as EAL funding and Pupil Premium allowing them to support refugee pupils for the long term.

4.3 ESOL provision and adult education

- 4.3.1 Eight hours per week tailored, pre-entry ESOL provision for the SVP and VCRS adults continues to be provided by the County Council’s Adult Learning Service in each district.

- 4.3.2 The Refugee Council has commented that compared with some of the larger metropolitan areas in the region with more established Arabic-speaking communities, the refugee families in North Yorkshire have more quickly built up their understanding of the English language and their independence. However, progress has still been slow due largely to the number of clients who received a limited education in their native country with some being illiterate or semi-literate in Arabic (chiefly those classed as ‘pre-pre entry’ in the table below).

Table 4: ESOL levels of clients of working age remaining in North Yorkshire (December 2019)

ESOL Level (Initial)	No. of refugees	ESOL Level (31/12/19)	No. of refugees
Not Categorised	0	Not Categorised	11
Pre-Pre Entry	21	Pre-Pre Entry	0
Pre-Entry	62	Pre-Entry	12
Entry 1	11	Entry 1	28
Entry 2	3	Entry 2	33
Entry 3	0	Entry 3	9
Level 1 +	0	Level 1 +	4
Total	97	Total	97

the same level of qualification as the General Certificate of Secondary Education or GCSEs. ESOL learners move up from level to level covering language skills in the areas of reading, writing, speaking and listening. <http://www.leeds.gov.uk/LearningEnglishInLeeds/Pages/LevelsAndClasses.aspx>

- 4.3.3 Progress has also not been helped for a minority of clients due to them missing some of the ESOL classes. The reasons for non-attendance (for the month of December 2019) included:

Table 5: Reasons provided by clients for their non-attendance at ESOL classes (December 2019)

Reason	Number
Working hours conflict with ESOL	11
Caring responsibilities	2
Long-term illness	7
Mobility / Age	7
No reason provided	1
Total	28

- 4.3.4 A priority is for the County Council's Employability Adviser to work closely with the ESOL Tutors and DWP Work Coaches to increase attendance at ESOL classes of those clients who can attend. Included in this will be a reduced provision of funding for training for clients of working age who are not maintaining their commitment to attend ESOL classes without good reason. Attendance at ESOL classes is also part of the 'client commitment' with the DWP and so non-attendees could be sanctioned.
- 4.3.5 Alongside the ESOL sessions, ICT sessions are being provided for those adults who have a better understanding of English. Volunteers are also providing informal English conversation sessions in the home in some of the districts. Once the adults reach an appropriate level of understanding of English they are able to access vocational courses.

4.4 Employment

- 4.4.1 The Refugee Employability Project was set up to help clients of working age prepare for, and gain, meaningful and sustainable employment, and move towards full integration and independence.

Table 6: Employment/volunteering figures as at 30 January 2020

	Q3	Q2	Comments
Total Number of Refugees	219	218	+1 (Scarborough)
Employability Adviser Clients	81	80	+1 (Scarborough)
Refugees in Full time employment	9	7	1 new, and 1 increased from part-time employment
Refugees in Part time employment	7	7	1 moved to full-time employment, and 1 new
Refugees post 16 in education/training	5	4	Part-time courses (increased to 3) Apprenticeships (2)
Refugees who have caring responsibilities	11	10	Updated number taken from Quarterly ESOL reports
Refugees in volunteering / work experience	30	31	Estimated

- 4.4.2 Numerous job applications have been submitted through online job boards, such as Indeed and Total Jobs but none have resulted in successful appointments. More success is achieved through using local networks, such as local volunteers and the clients' own knowledge of their immediate geographical area.
- 4.4.3 Whilst multiple applications through online job boards will continue, they need to be supplemented by a more focused approach. For example, clients are now asked to make the Employability Adviser aware of any local opportunities that they see and these can then be investigated. By the client sending a picture of a company logo, or job advert, the Employability Adviser can make contact with potential employers.
- 4.4.4 The focus currently is on small local employers, organisations where previous placements have been achieved, and any Sector Based Work Academy (SBWA) initiatives. The SBWA initiatives are quite often promoted through local DWP offices so the Employability Adviser is liaising closely with the Employer Engagement team in each DWP office in order to maximise opportunities.
- 4.4.5 Initial support can be provided for employers taking on a refugee client, including interpretation support, to cover aspects of induction and health and safety training.
- 4.4.6 Business plans, through the New Enterprise Allowance (NEA) scheme, have been approved for two new catering business start-ups and funding is now being sought for both.
- 4.4.7 A number of the clients have construction experience and so work placements are being explored to this end with a range of employers. Two clients who have a good understanding of English have been introduced to the DWP for provision on the CSCS card⁵ training in English. The delivery time will be subject to suitable numbers and available courses. Work continues to establish CSCS card training in Arabic with the main issue being the provision of suitable, translated, training materials.
- 4.4.8 Clients continue to have success completing both their theory and practical driving tests and this improves mobility with better access to training and eventually work. To aid this driving theory sessions were provided over a number of weeks across North Yorkshire. One individual, who successfully passed his driving test in November 2019, is now being put forward for a Light Goods Vehicle (LGV) provisional licence. Once secured he will be able to commence his LGV training and return to his previous work as a lorry driver.
- 4.5 Integration support: The Refugee Council
- 4.5.1 The Refugee Council provided the Integration Caseworker support for Year 1 of all the SVP and VCRS arrivals in North Yorkshire. This included named caseworkers

⁵ A Construction Skills Certificate Card is required in the United Kingdom for individuals working on construction sites in order to prove that they have the appropriate training and qualifications for the job they do on site. Applicants are required to sit an exam in order to be awarded a CSCS card.

for each family, supporting individuals and families in all aspects of their new life in the UK and working towards independence.

- 4.5.2 The families resettled in North Yorkshire no longer have caseworkers due to them being here longer than 12 months but instead they have access to the Refugee Council's 'Independent Living Advice' Service. This is tailored to the needs of each family and their potential for doing things for themselves. Some families, particularly those with caring responsibilities and with a relatively poor understanding of the English language will continue to require support throughout their five-year resettlement period in the United Kingdom.
- 4.5.3 Drop-in sessions continue to be held in each district but instead of being weekly (as they were in the first year of a family's arrival) they are either fortnightly or monthly depending upon the district concerned.
- 4.6 Health and social care services:
- 4.6.1 NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) are reimbursed by the Home Office for primary and secondary health care costs for the first 12 months after a family has arrived in the UK.
- 4.6.2 North Yorkshire County Council can claim back funding for up to five years from the Home Office for 'exceptional costs' relating to an individual's social care support.
- 4.6.3 A number of clients, adults and children, have accessed counselling support through the regional children and families' specialist mental health service provided by Solace and Haven. This provision allows clients to be fast-tracked for support from trained counsellors experienced in supporting survivors of persecution and exile and with access to arabic-speaking interpreters. The Home Office grant provided to local authorities and match-funding from the Home Office has funded this service to date but going forward the Clinical Commissioning Groups will be asked to use some of the Home Office grant that they receive to fund this service.
- 4.6.4 It is evident that parts of the health service need to improve access to interpreting and translating services. The health service like other parts of the public sector has legal duties to reduce inequalities to its clients. NHS England guidance⁶ states that patients should be able to access health services in a way that ensures their language and communication requirements do not prevent them receiving the same quality of healthcare as others. Patients requiring an interpreter should also not be disadvantaged in terms of the timeliness of their access. Healthwatch North Yorkshire recently undertook research⁷ which highlighted the difficulties in accessing interpreter services within healthcare systems in North Yorkshire (GPs, pharmacies and dentists). The findings were based on insights from more than 40 refugees in North Yorkshire and a mystery shopping exercise at 25 pharmacies.

⁶ <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/guidance-for-commissioners-interpreting-and-translation-services-in-primary-care.pdf>

⁷ <https://healthwatchnorthyorkshire.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/HWNY-Refugee-Report-January-2020.pdf>

4.6.5 Where there have been instances of no access to interpreters being provided these have been flagged up with the local Clinical Commissioning Group in the past. Hospitals have also been contacted directly. Clients are now being advised to make a formal complaint, as all other avenues have been exhausted. However, clients are generally reluctant to do so.

4.7 Volunteers / volunteering opportunities:

4.7.1 There continue to be a number of good examples of individuals and communities in North Yorkshire working together with the resettlement agencies to support refugee integration in North Yorkshire, helping the families to feel part of the community in which they live in. This has included amongst other things volunteers providing conversational English, either through volunteer-run conversational groups or one-to-one English tutoring in the home. The latter has been supported with funding from the Home Office resettlement grant to enable volunteers to have access to a teacher to provide advice and guidance on learning strategies.

4.8 Years 2 to 5 support

4.8.1 A longer term framework to support the families beyond the initial 12 months of the programme remains in place in North Yorkshire through utilising the Years 2 to 5 resettlement grant from the Home Office.

The Years 2 to 5 support comprises:

- continuation of English language classes
- employment advice and apprenticeship opportunities
- continuation of support to schools
- scaled down integration support ('Independent Living Advice')
- supporting volunteering opportunities and community groups
- specialist mental health support
- scaled down housing support to assist with house moves
- legal advice on applying for permanent leave to remain in the UK

5 **Global Resettlement Scheme**

5.1 The global resettlement scheme will incorporate the current resettlement programmes (SRP, VCRS and Gateway Protection Programme) into one new 'global resettlement scheme'. The process for accepting refugees will be the same, with the UNHCR making recommendations to the Home Office, and the final decision resting with local authority. The grant provided to local authorities and clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) will be funded at the same rate and for the same period as the current VCRS and VCRS schemes (five years for local authorities and one year for CCGs).

5.2 In 2020/21, the first year of the new scheme's operation, the government will aim to resettle 5,000 refugees. The numbers of refugees to be resettled on a yearly basis beyond 2020/21 is thought to be unlikely to change significantly and the funding is

expected to remain the same, though it is not known yet whether inflationary cost pressures will be taken into account in subsequent years.

- 5.3 The geographical focus will be broadened beyond the Middle East and the North Africa region. This will also enable the addition of a new process for emergency resettlement, allowing the UK to respond quickly to instances of heightened protection need, providing a faster route to protection where lives are at risk. The numbers of refugees brought under this emergency aspect of the new scheme is expected to be a minor part of the overall number of refugees to be resettled.
- 5.4 The Community Sponsorship scheme will continue and the numbers will be in addition to the 5,000 refugees to be resettled in 2020/21 by local authorities. (To date in North Yorkshire one family (four persons) has been resettled in Craven district under the Community Sponsorship scheme and is not included in the numbers resettled by North Yorkshire local authorities.)
- 5.5 In the Yorkshire and Humber region, the regional partnership agreement between Migration Yorkshire and local authorities is likely to remain the same under the new scheme. The Refugee Council will continue to provide the integration support in 2020/21, as planned, but a procurement exercise is expected to take place at the same time to appoint an integration support provider for the longer term. This exercise will also provide an opportunity to re-model the existing integration support if required. Other regional commissioned support will also be reviewed.
- 5.6 All local authorities in North Yorkshire have now signed up to participate in the new scheme. Consequently, approximately 200 refugees will be resettled in North Yorkshire between 2020/21 to 2023/24. This equates to one percent of the envisaged national programme of 5,000 persons per year. This is the same 'fair share' approach used for the VCRS and VCRS programmes, given that the county's population is just under one percent of the UK population. Using this approach, the number of refugees that will be resettled in each district is shown in the table below.

Table 7: ONS 2018 population estimates

District	2018 population mid-year estimate by district	Percentage of North Yorkshire population by district	Anticipated number of refugees to be resettled in total 2020/21 to 2023/24
Craven	56,832	9.3	19
Hambleton	91,134	14.8	30
Harrogate	160,533	26.1	52
Richmondshire	53,244	8.7	17
Ryedale	54,920	8.9	18
Scarborough	108,736	17.7	35
Selby	89,106	14.5	29
Total	614,505	100	200

- 5.7 The schedule of arrivals across each of the seven North Yorkshire districts will begin with resettling families in no more than three districts at a time. Resettlement will be over the space of several months in the initial districts before moving on to the remaining districts once the former have reached their agreed resettlement number. For practical reasons it is not envisaged that a district will spread out its resettlement of families across each of the years 2020/21 to 2023/24 as this would be more difficult to manage and require a greater level of resource on an ongoing basis.
- 5.8 Future arrivals will continue to be resettled in towns to ensure that they have access to the appropriate support services. If new arrivals are resettled in the same town in the district as our existing refugee families, it will help to consolidate a support network between families and possibly improve outcomes.
- 5.9 Careful consideration will be taken locally as to regards the country and cultural background of refugees being resettled under the new scheme from each flight and in relation to existing immigrant communities. Resettling only one family from a separate cultural background to other refugee families heightens the risk of that family moving out of the county. In the first few years it is anticipated that most of the refugees will continue to be from Syria due to the continuing crisis there.

6 Recommendation:

- 6.1 That the Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee notes the progress of the refugee resettlement programme in North Yorkshire.

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North Yorkshire County Council

Author and presenter of report:
Jonathan Spencer
Project Manager North Yorkshire Refugee Resettlement

17 February 2020

Appendices:

Appendix A: Letter to Council Leaders, dated 17 June 2019, from the Rt. Hon. Caroline Nokes MP, Minister of State for Immigration: Home Office, and Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth, Minister for Faith: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Appendix B: UK Resettlement Scheme: Note for Local Authorities, August 2019 (Home Office)

Appendix C: North Yorkshire Refugee Resettlement Schedule: July 2016 to February 2018



Home Office

Rt Hon Caroline Nokes MP
Minister of State for Immigration

2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF
www.gov.uk/home-office

Council Leaders
Local Authorities in England

Sent via email



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth
Minister for Faith

17 June 2019

Dear Leader,

We are writing to inform you that the Government has today reaffirmed our commitment to the resettlement of refugees in anticipation of the conclusion of our three largest resettlement schemes in 2020. We hope this is welcome news to you and your communities. The success of resettlement in the UK to date has been achieved by working in partnership with over 300 local authorities. Many of you are participating in delivering the current schemes and your work to support and integrate these vulnerable refugees is greatly appreciated.

In the statement the Home Secretary has made to Parliament, he set out the Government's ongoing commitment to resettlement. We will consolidate our biggest schemes into a new global resettlement scheme. Our priority will be to continue to resettle the most vulnerable refugees, identified and referred by UNHCR. Under the global resettlement scheme, we will broaden our geographical focus beyond the Middle East and North Africa region and will also be better placed to swiftly respond to international crises in coordination with global partners.

In the first year of operation, the UK will aim to resettle in the region of 5,000 of the world's most vulnerable refugees. Ensuring local authorities can provide resettled refugees with the help and support they need to successfully integrate in their new communities remains central to our approach. Hence, we are happy to confirm we have retained current funding rates for those arriving in the first year of the scheme, meaning a local authority will continue to receive the five-year tariff of £20,520 for each refugee with a top-up (for year 1) for children aged 3-18 years.

A new process for emergency resettlement will also be developed, allowing the UK to respond quickly to instances of heightened protection need, providing a faster route to protection where lives are at risk. We will work closely with local authorities, regional Strategic Migration Partnerships and other partners over the coming months as we develop the new arrangements.

The Community Sponsorship scheme, which enables community groups to directly welcome and support refugees in the UK, will continue. Building on the experience of delivering the current schemes and the significant contribution of our community sponsors, a key part of our resettlement offer will be that those resettled through our community sponsorship and Mandate routes will be in addition to our yearly, global commitment.

We would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the invaluable contribution that many of you have made in delivering the current commitments. We hope you will continue to support refugees under the new scheme. In addition, we would welcome pledges of support from authorities yet to engage in resettlement. Our officials will be in touch soon to provide more detailed information on how you can support us. In the meantime, if you would like to discuss any aspect of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Over the last few years, we have together made significant progress in our contribution to global resettlement efforts. We recognise the positive difference that local authorities, regional Strategic Migration Partnerships, communities, and community sponsors have made to the lives of refugees resettled in the UK. It is right that we today reaffirm our ongoing commitment to supporting refugees, and to working with partners to find a longer-term approach to refugee protection – an approach that restores dignity and offers refugees a viable future.

We are copying this letter to regional Strategic Migration Partnerships.

Handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Caroline".

Rt Hon Caroline Nokes MP
Minister of State for Immigration
Home Office

Handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lord Bourne".

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth
Minister for Faith
Ministry of Housing, Communities and
Local Government



Home Office

UK Resettlement Scheme

Note for Local Authorities

August 2019

Introduction

Resettlement continues to be a critical protection tool, providing a pathway to safety for refugees who can no longer remain in their host-countries. With the support of local government, the UK's existing schemes have provided safe and legal routes for tens of thousands of people to start new lives. However, the global need for resettlement continues to grow; the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimate that in 2020 more than 1.4 million refugees will need to be resettled.

The UK Government confirmed on 17 June 2019 its ongoing commitment to resettlement, announcing plans for a new UK Resettlement Scheme which will see thousands more refugees provided with a route to protection when it begins in 2020. This briefing note sets out further information for local authorities about the new scheme.

Overview

The UK Resettlement Scheme will consolidate the existing Vulnerable Persons' Resettlement Scheme (VPRS), Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme (VCRS) and Gateway Protection Programme which will all naturally come to an end in 2020. This new scheme will be open to refugees identified by UNHCR to be in need of resettlement to the UK because of their vulnerability and does not have a specific geographical focus. Those resettled through our Community Sponsorship and Mandate routes will be in addition to our yearly, global commitment.¹

We are looking for the ongoing support and participation of local government across the UK and encourage local authorities to submit their offer of places for the new scheme as soon as possible. We continue to warmly welcome interest from those authorities who have yet to take part in resettlement.

We are planning a smooth transition, with arrivals under the new scheme expected to start once arrivals under the VPRS are completed; this is estimated to be in Spring 2020. We expect there to be a seamless continuation of arrivals between the current and the new scheme. This is in line with feedback from regional Strategic Migration Partnerships (SMPs) on what LAs would find most helpful in transition.

We would also welcome conversations with local authorities who are able to offer additional places under the current schemes. This would enable authorities to maintain momentum with their arrivals and ensure consistency in provision of services as we move towards the start of the new scheme.

Eligibility

The new UK Resettlement Scheme will continue to be based on vulnerability, with refugees assessed for resettlement by UNHCR against their [resettlement submission categories](#). We

¹ More information on all current resettlement schemes can be found [here](#)

will work closely with UNHCR to identify vulnerable refugees from around the world where resettlement to the UK offers the best durable solution.

Who we will resettle

In the first year of the new scheme it is anticipated that the caseloads of refugees we resettle will continue to look broadly similar to those we see under our existing schemes, with the majority coming from the MENA region. We already operate in line with UNHCR's global priorities and will continue to do so, however over time the nationalities of refugees resettled may change in response to world events and the global context.

As the profiles of those we resettle change, the Home Office will continue to work closely with SMPs and local authorities to match refugees to housing availability in areas that can provide appropriate support to those we resettle.

Numbers

In the first year of operation of the new scheme, the UK will aim to resettle in the region of 5000 refugees with those arriving through our Mandate and Community Sponsorship routes additional to this number. The Government remains committed to resettlement, and decisions on the number of refugees to be resettled in subsequent years will be determined through future spending rounds.

Year on year, resettlement volumes are likely to fluctuate according to the flow of referrals from overseas and the availability of suitable accommodation and support in the UK.

Role of Local Authorities

Local authority participation in the new scheme will continue to be voluntary, with refugees allocated in the same way as currently under VPRS and VCRS. We will continue to work closely with local authorities across the UK to ensure they are able to support those who are allocated to them for resettlement under the new scheme.

Local authorities will retain the same role in the community sponsorship process and we would ask they continue to engage positively with groups that come forward to participate in community sponsorship.

Role of Regional Strategic Migration Partnerships

SMPs will continue to provide support to local authorities to help deliver resettlement, including coordinating offers of places and planning for the arrival of refugees, together with sharing of expertise and knowledge to enable councils to resettle successfully.

Funding Package

The funding package available under the new scheme will mirror that currently paid under VPRS and VCRS; a local authority will receive a five-year tariff of £20,520² for each refugee with an additional education tariff (for year one) for children aged 3-18 years. Additional

² £20,000 in Northern Ireland as social care element paid directly to Department of Health

funding will continue to be made available, on a case by case basis, for exceptional costs incurred by local authorities, including; property adaptations, void costs for larger (4 bed) properties, special educational needs, and adult social care.

The post-arrival resettlement support requirements of local authorities will mirror those issued under the VPRS and VCRS.

Health Care

All refugees referred for potential resettlement undergo a health assessment through International Organization for Migration as part of the resettlement process. The findings of these assessments will continue to be passed to local authorities considering resettlement of that individual to ensure suitable treatment/support can be provided upon arrival.

As with existing schemes, resettled refugees under the new scheme will be able to access healthcare via the NHS free of charge. The £2600 per refugee for health costs made available to healthcare providers under the VPRS and VCRS will continue to be available under the new scheme.

Access to Benefits and Work

Refugees resettled under the new scheme will have access to mainstream benefits and services to enable their integration; work continues across Government to ensure services meet the needs of refugees. They will also have immediate and unrestricted access to the labour market.

English Language

Refugees will continue to be able to access English language tuition that is fully funded through the Adult Education Budget (AEB) if they are unemployed and in receipt of certain benefits; or if they are in an area that is part of the AEB low wage trial and they earn less than £16,009.50. Children in full time education will receive English language support in schools.

Additional language funding of £850pp will continue to be available in year one. This is intended to boost local capacity and supplement mainstream AEB provision. As with the current scheme, Home Office will include outcomes associated with this additional funding in the annual funding instruction. Local authorities will also continue to be able to use the tariff to further top up costs of language provision. Funding will also be available to help with child care costs in relation to attendance at ESOL classes.

Community Sponsorship

The community sponsorship scheme has been a real success and is established now, with a broad range of experience, training and support available to community groups, through Reset, the organisation established to build capacity amongst potential community sponsors. Reset currently provides services including in-person training, a range of online material to support groups in preparing their application and supporting a family <https://training-resetuk.org/> an application checking service and a post-arrival advice

line. Reset are also developing resources for local authorities about the process of providing consent.

Please get in touch with your Resettlement Contact Officer and regional SMP lead if you require further information, and to discuss your offer of new resettlement places under the current or future scheme.

Appendix C

North Yorkshire Refugee Resettlement Schedule: July 2016 to February 2018

Month	Syrian Vulnerable Persons (SVP) numbers by district	North Yorkshire Districts
2016		
July	34 (11 = Craven / 9 = Harrogate / 14 = Selby)	Craven, Harrogate and Selby
September	3 (Craven)	Craven
October	30 (8 = Selby / 22 = Harrogate)	Selby and Harrogate
November	6 (Harrogate)	Harrogate
2017		
January	52 (10 = Craven / 17 = Harrogate / 25 = Scarborough)	Harrogate and Scarborough
April	5 (Selby)	Selby
June	28 (6 = Craven / 11 = Ryedale / 11 = Scarborough)	Craven, Ryedale and Scarborough
July	5 (Ryedale)	Ryedale
2018		
January	40 (22 = Hambleton /18 = Richmondshire)	Hambleton and Richmondshire
February	6 (6 = Hambleton)	Hambleton

District	SVP minimum agreed number	Actual nos. initially resettled (exc. births in UK)	Remaining in North Yorkshire (exc. births in UK)
Craven	25	30	15
Hambleton	28	28	28
Harrogate	50	54	48
Richmondshire	16	18	13
Ryedale	16	16	16
Scarborough	36	36	36
Selby	26	27	27
Totals	197	209	183

Month	Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme (VCRS) numbers by district	North Yorkshire Districts
2017		
April	7 (2 families) = Harrogate	Harrogate and Selby
June	5 (1 family) = Ryedale	Ryedale
July	5 (1 family) = Selby	Selby
September	4 (1 family) = Craven	Craven
2018		
January	8 (2 families) = Richmondshire	Richmondshire

District	VCRS minimum agreed number	Actual nos. initially resettled (exc. births in UK)	Remaining in North Yorkshire (exc. births in the UK)
Craven	3 (1 family)	4 (1 family)	0
Hambleton	4 (1 family)	0	0
Harrogate	7 (2 families)	7 (2 families)	7
Richmondshire	2 (1 family)	8 (2 families)	4
Ryedale	2 (1 family)	5 (1 family)	5
Scarborough	0	0	0
Selby	4 (1 family)	5 (1 family)	5
Totals	22	29	21