
HEALTH, HOUSING & WELLBEING STATEMENT

AGENDA ITEM: 9

Syrian Resettlement Programme

Significant progress has been made on our participation in the Home Office Syrian Resettlement Programme since I last updated full Council.

Preparation is key to ensuring that these individuals are best able to integrate into the life of the City. Recently an invitation to tender was issued for the provision of a comprehensive Support and Integration Service. This will ensure the successful resettlement of 60 Syrian refugees in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan.

The Home Office will provide financial support to the Council to meet the needs of those assisted by this programme.

The contract will be awarded in mid-April with refugees likely to arrive in the region in May. We are continuing to work with the Vale of Glamorgan and the Regional Leadership Group of which I am the Chair continues to provide strategic direction as we move forward. During the interim period while the contract is being commissioned the Operational Group will continue to prepare and plan and I am grateful to the Vale of Glamorgan for establishing and hosting the role of Regional Resettlement Co-ordinator.

COUNCIL, 24 MARCH 2016 : WRITTEN QUESTIONS

EDUCATION (COUNCILLOR SARAH MERRY)

W1	<p><u>WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BOWDEN</u></p> <p>Schools across Cardiff are welcoming refugees from Syria. Could you please advise what support is being given to schools to assist them with the integration of these vulnerable children; what central role Council is playing in terms of starter classes for learning English as a second language; and what additional financial assistance will be given to schools to enable them to provide the additional support that these children need?</p> <p><u>Reply</u></p> <p>The Syrian resettlement scheme is likely to commence in May 2016.</p> <p>Many Cardiff schools are used to admitting pupils on a regular basis from many different countries. Schools with high proportions of Black and Minority Ethnic pupils and pupils with English as an Additional Language (EAL) have additional funds from the Education Improvement Grant to meet the language and development needs of these pupils.</p> <p>The Council's Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service (EMTAS) includes six Closing the Gap Officers – one officer for each of the neighbourhood partnership areas in the city who support schools to build capacity in this area of work.</p> <p>There is also a central New Arrivals team which responds on a termly basis, if necessary, to schools' needs across the city.</p> <p>There are no Authority-wide starter classes, but some schools have their own, which are funded from the minority ethnic achievement portion of the Education Improvement Grant.</p>
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W4

WRITTEN QUESTION FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BOWDEN

Could you provide details of the arrangements that are in place, and the services that are being provided, for the Syrian refugees in the City and whether central government has provided financial support to the Council for this vulnerable group of people?

Reply

I am pleased to be able to confirm that the City of Cardiff Council, together with the Vale of Glamorgan Council, and working with partners at our Joint Leadership Board have agreed to resettle an initial number of 60 Syrian refugees as part of the UK Government Syrian Resettlement Programme.

An operational group made up of officers from a range of council and partner services has been involved in detailed preparations for the delivery of the programme and to ensure the successful long term involvement of the region over the life of the scheme.

An opportunity to tender, with a closing date in early April 2016, was issued recently on 29 February 2016 for the provision of a wide range of support services across the region.

The Home Office will provide financial support to the Council to meet the needs of those assisted by this programme and it is likely that refugees settled through this scheme will arrive in Cardiff in May 2016.

There are, of course, refugees from Syria who have arrived in Cardiff as part of the Asylum Seeker dispersal arrangements. The contract for the provision of services for those seeking asylum is with a private sector provider and no funding is available to the Council for the support of these refugees.