

Cabinet - 27 July 2016

Assistance with Re-location of Syrian Refuges

Portfolio: Councillor D Coughlan – Social Care

Service: Money Home Job

Wards: All

Key decision: Yes

Forward plan: No

1. Summary

- 1.1 Assistance is being sought from Local Authorities, Health Services and Voluntary Sector Partners with the dispersal and re-settlement of Syrian Refugees across England, Wales and Scotland. This report outlines how the scheme works and possible cost implications for Walsall Council, voluntary sector partners and other statutory agencies.
- 1.2 The report recommends a scheme of assistance for Syrian Refugees (excluding unaccompanied children).

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Cabinet pledges to accept similar numbers of Syrian Refugees as neighbouring Local Authorities. The 20 individuals to be in families i.e. not single people and on the conditions that:
 - a) At least 5 years funding would be made available to help re-settle refugees;
 - b) The cohort of refugees accepted would not include Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (USAC) or single people;
 - c) An appropriate support organisation such as Refugee Migrant Centre is procured to assist in the resettlement of the individuals;
 - d) The cohort is split into tranches of a maximum of circa 10 individuals (within families) separated by 4 weeks apart to aid with the initial resettlement work.
- 2.2 That Cabinet delegates to the Head of Business Change, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder Social Care, authority to agree additional tranches to be supported in Walsall following a review of the resettlement approved as per 2.1 above.

3. Report detail

3.1 In addition to the resettlement of asylum seekers dispersed within the West Midlands region by G4S there are 2 key elements to the Syrian refugee resettlement situation:

1. Request from UNHCR via the Home Office for support of individuals (may be families or single people but no unaccompanied minors)
2. Request from Home Office for support with the resettlement of unaccompanied Syrian children (USAC)
 - i. already within the UK (principally in Kent)
 - ii. in refugee camps or in other parts of Europe

3.2 Details on requests are received directly from the Home Office and via West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership at which both council an elected member and a responsible council officer attends. Appendix 1 has further background information on the issues of Syrian refugees.

Current requests of the Council

a) Syrian Families and adults

3.3 The council is being requested to confirm whether they will be prepared to participate in the relocation scheme and provide an estimate about how many families / individuals could be assisted locally.

3.4 At the moment participation in the proposed relocation scheme has been on a voluntary basis, however, in order to meet the quota agreed by the government, there is growing speculation that the Government may legislate to make it mandatory for Local Authorities to participate in the scheme.

3.5 In December 2015 Walsall Council was asked to make an indicative 'pledge' about how many Syrian Refugees could be assisted in the area under the current Phase of the scheme (known as Phase 2). The initial 'pledge' offered is not a binding agreement and the Council can still alter the numbers or withdraw from the scheme entirely at this point. To help inform the level of the initial pledge, Council officers consulted with neighbouring West Midlands authorities, to establish how many Syrian Refugees they thought they would be able to accommodate:

Authority	Phase 1	Phase 2
Coventry Council	150 individuals	
Birmingham City Council	50 individuals	
Dudley Council		20 families
Wolverhampton Council		20 individuals
Sandwell Council	No assistance to date	

3.6 Walsall is already an area in which dispersal of asylum seekers takes place via G4S. Table 2 overleaf provides details about how many non-Syrian Asylum Seekers were dispersed within the West Midlands and highlights that

Walsall has significantly lower numbers of Asylum Seekers than neighbouring areas. The reason for that is that the Council came out of the dispersal contract with the Home Office when the housing stock was transferred in 2003.

- 3.7 Walsall Council has received a very positive response from members of the public and partners offering help for Syrian Refugees. To ensure that this good will was not lost the Council hosted a partner event on 10th November 2015 to discuss what support is already available for migrant communities in Walsall and future opportunities. As a result of that Welfare Rights, Equalities, and Community Cohesion Teams have been pro-actively meeting with local partners and voluntary organisations to establish what services they currently offer and identify how future services could be delivered collaboratively to assist in welcoming Syrian refugees.

Table 2 Dispersal of asylum seekers (non Syrian)

Area	Population (2011 Census)	Cluster 1:200 Allowance	Total numbers on support in Feb 2016	Current Ratio	Total at start of contract June 2012
Birmingham	1,073,000	5365	1860	577-1	1097
Coventry	318,600	1593	586	544-1	409
Dudley	312,900	1565	250	1252-1	144
Sandwell	308,100	1541	917	335-1	329
Stoke	249,000	1245	820	303-1	487
Walsall	269,300	1347	280	961-1	245
Wolverhampton	249,500	1248	765	326-1	394
Total	2,780,400	13902	5,500	505-1	3016
Details as at 18 May 2016					

- 3.8 The Home Office has provided a schedule of eligible support which is summarised in Appendix 2 which also contains of how this is proposed to be funded.
- 3.9 The Wolverhampton Refugee and Migrant Centre (RMC) also confirmed that they are prepared to offer a comprehensive package of support and assistance for example with initial screening, medical advice, support and ESOL courses (provided that reasonable funding can be provided). We have also received offers of assistance from a number of other organisations already involved in assisting refugees nationally.
- 3.10 It is anticipated that the size of any family resettled under this scheme will be 4 to 6 individuals.
- 3.11 As refugees and existing communities adjust to having neighbours with different cultural needs, or religious beliefs, the Council and voluntary sector partners (including housing providers) may need to invest in additional activities to enhance community cohesion. There is also likely to be increased

pressure placed on voluntary sector organisations offering welfare, legal advice and support to families.

- 3.12 It is felt that accepting too many individuals in any tranche could place existing front-line services under too much pressure, and could also invoke a negative response from some parts of the community that are already living in Walsall and competing for resources. Despite the potential for some members of the community to object, there has already been a significant amount of support from partners and community members for the Council to offer assistance to vulnerable families from Syria. Based on this it is proposed that the Council pledge to support similar numbers of Syrian Refugees as neighbouring Local Authorities. The individuals to be in families i.e. not single people.

b) Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)

- 3.13 On 13 May 2016, The Right Honourable James Brokenshaw wrote to the Leader of the Council, to set out the new National Transfer Rates for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC). The letter explains his hopes that Local Authorities will get involved with dispersal of UASC on a voluntary basis (and that at this stage it is not compulsory to participate). The council is being requested to confirm whether they will be prepared to participate in the relocation scheme of unaccompanied children.
- 3.14 The Local Government Association considers it to be reasonable to expect no region to exceed 0.07% UASC and Refugee Children as a proportion of the total child looked after population in their area. These figures must take account of existing UASC population in each area. The West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership are seeking further clarity on what if any exclusions do exist in terms of numbers so that a more precise USAC number can be developed by each Council.
- 3.15 After deducting existing UASC and any estimated refugee children which are not a financial burden on Children Social Care, this reduces the number of additional USAC for Walsall to circa 32.
- 3.16 If the Council agreed to accept USAC, the cost of providing housing and essential living expenses would need to be met by an allowance set out under National Transfer Rates (shown in Appendix 1).
- 3.17 It is currently considered that USAC will place additional budget pressures on the Council over and above the National Transfer Rates and that these are such that they would place significant challenges and un-budgeted cost pressures on the Council. For this reason it is not recommended to currently offer support for USAC.

4. Council Priorities

- 4.1 The proposal is in accordance with the Council priorities:
1. Lifelong health, wealth and happiness
 2. Safe, resilient and prospering communities

3. Sustainable change and improvement for all

5. Risk management

- 5.1 Failing to accept any Syrian Refugees could increase the chances of the Government introducing legislation to make it mandatory for Council's to assist with dispersal. In such circumstances, the Council is likely to have less influence over the timescales, type and frequency of refugees arriving in Walsall.

6. Financial implications

Syrian Refugee – Families and adults

- 6.1 As highlighted in Appendix 1 Central government have set out a funding allocation over a 5 year period for individual refugees. Council's will receive £12,000 per person overall; tapering from £5,000 in year 2 to £3,700 in year 3, to £2,300 in year 4 and £1,000 in year 5. There is financial support for education and health in years 2-5 (through existing funding mechanisms) for school placements and health services that are required by individuals. The costs of promoting economic integration is not covered and this means the costs of help to get into work/training and costs of language support after Year 1 may not be recoverable. For year 1 there is additional support for educational and medical needs, and Council's will receive:
- £8,520 for adults,
 - £13,020 for those aged 5 to 18 years
 - £10,770 for those aged 3 to 4 years,
 - and £8,520 for those under the age of three.
- 6.2 An "extreme cases" fund will be available with an application process for additional funding to support those who are the most vulnerable with additional care needs. This is held and administered by Central Government.
- 6.3 The full financial implications for the Council and its partners are difficult to robustly predict, as we have no specific detail about the level of the needs of the individual people who the Council may support. However it is considered that the funds available to meet the costs to the Council for Syrian refugees (excluding USAC) are likely to be reasonable to secure appropriate support and resettlement. Based on this the recommendation is to support 20 individuals.

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)

- 6.4 The Cost of USAC for the Council is considered to far exceed the payments provided by Government. For example, the cost alone, of providing accommodation for 32 children are indicated below. These costs do not take account of additional costs to be met by the Council and its partners in supporting UASC.

Net Cost in year 1	Total net cost in first 4 years
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Assumed split based on existing UASC cohort placements split (75% IFAs & 25% External residential)	£0.509M	£4.3M
Assumed split based on Percentage of Total LAC currently supported in placements. (93% IFA & 7% External residential)	£0.212M	£2.3M

The above figures include the following assumptions:

- UASC cohort of 32 supported over two financial years (16 intake by 2017/18 and 16 intake by 2018/19).
- The age of each UASC impacts the Home Office contribution received as does the length of time each UASC is supported post 18. Based on statistics around the age of UASC entering care, it is assumed 75% of UASC will be 16 and over and 25% under 16 (average 12 years old). It is assumed each UASC will be supported to the age of 22 due to the complexities around each child's needs and period of required transition.

7. Legal implications

7.1 The Immigration Act 2016 received royal assent in May 2016 and covers a range of areas including:

- new sanctions on illegal workers and rogue employers including gang masters;
- better co-ordination for regulators that enforce workers rights;
- further steps to prevent illegal migrants in the UK from accessing:
 - housing;
 - driving licences and
 - bank accounts.
 - Reduce the scope for incentives for failed asylum seekers to remain in the UK illegally;
- that the Government will consult with local authorities on the resettlement of unaccompanied children.

7.2 The Council is empowered to take the recommended action under Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 and can be compelled to assist under Sections 100 and 101 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

7.3 There is no statutory duty to offer accommodation to Syrian families, however, in offering to do so, the Council will be exercising a public function and will therefore be subject to s149 of the Equalities Act 2010.

7.4 Households supported are not asylum seekers and have leave to remain in the United Kingdom from day one. As refugees they will be granted a five year humanitarian protection visa, which will entitle refugees access to public funds including housing, access to the labour market and the possibility of family reunion.

7.5 UASC, are supported by local authorities in accordance with duties to children under the Children Act 1989. All Directors of Children's Social Services in

England have been requested to provide urgent support under Section 27 of the Children Act 1989. Section 27 (2) states:

“An authority whose help is so requested shall comply with the request if it is compatible with their own statutory or other duties and obligations and does not unduly prejudice the discharge of any of their functions”.

Section 20 of the Children Act 1989 (amended by the Children and Young Persons Act 2008) contains a specific, mandatory duty to provide accommodation to a child who meets certain criteria. The criteria are that a child requires accommodation because there is no one with parental responsibility for them, because they are lost, abandoned, or because the person who has been caring for them is prevented from providing them with suitable accommodation or care. Section 22 of the Children Act 1989 (amended by the Children and Young Persons Act 2008) places a general duty on local authorities to secure, so far as reasonably practicable, sufficient accommodation within the authority’s area which meets the needs of children that the local authority are looking after, and whose circumstances are such that it would be consistent with their welfare for them to be provided with accommodation that is in the local authority’s area.

8. Procurement reporting

- 8.1 It is proposed to procure a specialist support and advice organisation to work directly with the Syrian refugees accepted by the Council prior to the acceptance of any individuals.

9. Property implications

- 9.1 The Council does not propose to accommodate any Syrian refugees in its own stock but instead will be working with private landlords and registered social housing providers to source appropriate housing in the borough.

10. Health and wellbeing implications

- 10.1 The full implications for the Council and its partners are difficult to robustly predict, as we have no specific detail about the level of the needs of the individual people who the Council may support through the refugee scheme. Details on the health and wellbeing of individuals is expected to be shared by the Home Office prior to settlement of the individual within a specific area as a result of a detailed health screening process that is undertaken in Syria to identify needs. Once refugees are in Walsall they will need assistance to register with local GP’s as quickly as possible and this will be part of the work of the organisation that is commissioned to deliver resettlement support.
- 10.2 The delivery of the support programme for Syrian refugees is not expected to have any specific adverse health implications for the borough population. Clinical Commissioning Groups are also directly involved early planning for the placements which will prove beneficial.
- 10.3 Initial indications from the cohort of refugees already re-settled in Coventry

suggest that additional specialist Mental Health services may be needed to support children and adults who have experienced trauma and are suffering conditions such as Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). At the ministerial event held on 25 February 2016 the Home Office advised that funding for specialist mental health services would be limited to year 1 (which means Syrian refugees may need to be 'fast-tracked' through waiting lists to ensure funding can be claimed).

11. Staffing implications

11.1 None.

12. Equality implications

12.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has commenced and will be reviewed by the Project Group at its meetings (as per Appendix 2). This will be an active assessment to ensure the Council considers any unintended consequences for specific characteristic groups through the delivery of this humanitarian programme.

13. Consultation

12.1 A range of organisations including but not limited to social housing providers and the Clinical Commissioning Group have been consulted on the proposal.

Background papers

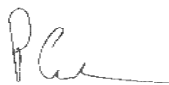
None

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19 July 2016



Councillor D Coughlan
Portfolio Holder Social Care

19 July 2016

Appendix 1

Background

Syrian Refugee – Families and adults

- 1.1 The prime minister, David Cameron, made a statement to the House of Commons on 7 September 2015 that Britain would re-settle up to 20,000 Syrian refugees during the remaining parliamentary period. Refugees are fleeing terror attacks and conflict in Syria and it is estimated that more than 11 million people have been driven from their homes.
- 1.2 Under the scheme refugees are taken from camps in countries neighbouring Syria. The Home Office and Department for Communities and Local Government are working with local authorities in England and the devolved administrations in Scotland and Wales to put in place arrangements to house and support the refugees. The cost of supporting the refugees in the first five years in Britain will be funded from foreign aid spending and additional funding earmarked by the treasury. The West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership has been supporting government by undertaking a 'coordinating role' in the region. Approximately 1,000 individuals have already been resettled under phase 1 of the scheme with Birmingham City Council and Coventry Metropolitan Borough Council from the West Midlands already playing a role. The Home Office is looking to expand the dispersal areas in Phase 2 and it is anticipated approximately 400 individuals would be resettled per month across the UK.
- 1.3 An initial meeting took place on 17 September 2015 between key partner agencies and the Council to discuss the Syrian Refugee Crisis. It was noted that taking large numbers of refugees, would place additional pressure on some front line services already experiencing budget pressures. Despite concerns, consensus was reached by all partners that Walsall should consider offering support to a limited number of Syrian Refugees. In December 2016 Walsall Council was asked to make an indicative 'pledge' about how many Syrian Refugees could be assisted in the area.

2. How the scheme works

- 2.1 The scheme works using the established United Nation High Commissioner Refugee (UNHCR) process for identifying and resettling vulnerable refugees. The process aims to identify those who:

"owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country."

- 2.2 The UNHCR approach recognizes that vulnerable people who are in need of the greatest assistance are often hard to identify, as they are least visible or vocal and more marginalised than others.

- 2.3 The Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme (SVPRS) currently runs in parallel with the UNHCR's Syria Humanitarian Admission Programme (HAP). The programme currently prioritises help for survivors of torture, violence and women and children at risk or in need of medical care. We have had confirmation that Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children are to be included as a new strand to the scheme (but Walsall has to date indicated that they cannot provide assistance to these children under the current offers of funding).
- 2.4 The SVPRS differs from other asylum dispersal schemes in the UK (where families are temporarily offered support pending a decision being reached on their application for Asylum which typically takes 6 months but can be longer). Under the SVPRS, individuals who arrive in the UK will already have 'Refugee Status' for 5 years (under a 'humanitarian protection visa') which allows them to stay in the country for five years, access employment, and benefits. At the end of 5 years, provided that they have lived here for the qualifying period, and it remains unsafe for them to return, they can apply to remain in the UK indefinitely.
- 2.5 At a ministerial event held on 25 February 2016 Local Authorities had the opportunity to listen to representatives from the Home Office, The West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership and other Council's that have already participated in Phase 1. The speakers advised that the vast majority of Syrian refugees that have arrived have been re-settled into Private Rented Accommodation as soon as they arrived. The speakers endorsed the use of private rented accommodation as they pointed out this approach reduced the chances of 'back-lash' from the existing community who might object to migrants being given 'priority' for social housing.

Syrian Refugees – Unaccompanied children

- 2.6 The new rates for supporting unaccompanied children are detailed in the table below.

National Transfer Rates for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)			
Age Profile	Rates for LA's Accepting UASC (1 st April to 30 th June 2016)	National Rates (1 st April to 30 th June 2016)	New National Rates (1 st July 2016 to 31 st March 2017)
Under 16	£114 Daily	£95 Daily	£114 Daily
16 to 17	£91 Daily	£71 Daily	£91 Daily
Leaving Care	£200 Weekly	£150 Weekly	£200 Weekly

Appendix 2

Eligible Support and Funding arrangements for Syrian Refugee – families and adults

Support

- 1.1 Walsall Council and partner agencies are being asked by the Home Office to help by:
1. Meeting recipients from planes and making transport arrangements to Walsall;
 2. Providing suitable housing (inclusive of adaptations, essential furniture, setting up utility supplies etc);
 3. Distribution of initial crisis support in the form of cash for food and clothing;
 4. Giving orientation support (such as English Language Provision, assistance with registration for relevant UK benefits, providing an emergency contact, health and safety briefings, registering children with schools, registering with GP's, help with accessing employment);
 5. Providing appropriate specialist mental health and social care services.
 6. Provision of additional School Places for children.

Funding

- 2.1 The UK Government allows individuals with 'Refugee Status' to:
1. Claim welfare benefits to support their living and housing costs;
 2. Apply for and take paid employment;
 3. Seek help with 'family reunion' (which means they can apply for their immediate family members to join them in the UK).
- 2.2 All the upfront costs for supporting the refugees in the first year will be reimbursed by Central Government including:
- 1 Arrival and ground travel costs to the receiving area;
 - 2 The actual costs of up to two months void costs (when securing accommodation plus the actual cost of adapting and furnishing properties where necessary);
 - 3 One-off cash and clothing allowance for new arrivals of £200 per person paid in advance of receipt of mainstream benefits;
 - 4 £600 per head for primary care costs £4,500 per head for education costs for 5-18 year olds (£2,250 for ages 3-5) plus any first year costs for specialist educational support which may be required;
 - 5 Health care costs (including any specialist services that are necessary).
 - 6 Where necessary a one-off supplement to cover the additional burden on social care services (negotiated on a case-by case basis);
 - 7 Actual costs of providing one year's integration support (including translation services).

- 2.3 For Phase 2 placements all funding will be awarded based on a standard ‘unit cost’ per refugee (as detailed in the table below).

YEAR 1 UNIT COST FOR SYRIAN VPR SCHEME

	Adult Benefit Claimant £	Other Adults £	Children 5 – 18 £	Children 3-4 £	Children under 3 £
Local Authority Costs	8,520	8,520	8,520	8,520	8,520
Education	0	0	4,500	2,250	0
Special Educational Needs	0	0	1,000	1,000	0
DWP Benefits	12,700	0	0	0	0
Primary Medical Care	200	200	200	200	200
Secondary Medical Care	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
TOTALS	23,420	10,720	16,220	13,970	10,720

- 2.4 The Home Office is proposing that Local Authorities would be flexible between elements of the unit cost and pool them (i.e. offset overspends in one area with under spends in another). The Local Authority has recently received details of how to claim via the Annex A process.

- 2.5 Year 2 to 5 funding will be allocated on a Tariff basis over 4 years, tapering from £5,000 per person in year 2 to £1,000 per person in year 5 (in total it equates to an extra £12,000 per individual in funding for the last 4 years). This funding includes support for integration such as additional English language training as well as social care. Again, the Home Office has stated that there is extra funding available for ‘special cases’ to provide additional support to the most vulnerable households requiring ongoing social care intervention as a result of having care needs.

- 2.6 It is expected that most Syrian Refugee families and single adults would be able to meet their ongoing housing and essential living costs once in receipt of relevant welfare benefits, or having accessed employment.

2.7 Specific areas of support:

a. Specialist Educational Support and Social Care Costs.

On 26 April 2016 a Home Office representative confirmed via email that there is extra funding available to cover Specialist Educational Support and Social Care Costs. This is centrally managed by the Home Office’s Finance

Department. Where local authorities identify that a case requires Special Educational Needs (SEN) or additional Social Care funding, the Home Office expects the council to provide them with the details of what is required (via a copy of the assessment) and estimated costs to their finance department so that they can be sighted on that. They will then contact us as soon as they can to confirm that the costs will be met. Consideration of these cases is on a case by case basis and it is expected that the council will claim for these costs is via the Annex A process within the Home Office guidance.

b. Health Funding

On 26 April 2016 a Home Office representative confirmed they had recently finished consulting with Health Service Commissioners about how to distribute an additional £60 million to help to cover ongoing medical costs for individuals who are seriously or critically ill and are in need of significant medical intervention. The details about how to claim that financial support is outlined in a document entitled 'Funding for Healthcare in England - Financial Year 2015/16, Syrian Resettlement Programme (SRP)'. Again, commissioners are expected to provide estimates and claim the money back using a similar process to the one for Local Authorities (as detailed above).

Phasing

- 2.8 It is felt that 20 individuals arriving in a staggered way over the next 10 months could potentially be housed directly into the private sector in Walsall, dependent upon rents sought by landlords. The Council has already received a number of offers of assistance from private landlords who are prepared to help and have property portfolios in Walsall. Key will be to ensure that households do not start in properties where they are already in a 'shortfall situation' in terms of rent and housing benefit levels from day one.
- 2.9 Registered Social Landlords such as Walsall Housing Group, WATMOS, Caldmore Accord, Midland Heart and Brighter Futures have also committed to work in partnership with the Council to help provide assistance with meeting the housing needs of Syrian refugees. In circumstances where it may prove challenging to assist disabled or injured households into the Private Sector it may be necessary for the Council to call on their help to meet the need for adapted properties.
- 2.10 All accommodation would need to meet the correct standards of maintenance and cleanliness and also be furnished with essential items. It is anticipated that families would initially be granted a 12-month tenancy or licence, during which time their long-term housing and support needs could be reviewed. Refugees would then be supported to either remain where they have been placed initially or move to other accommodation that will meet their long term needs. Initial indications suggest that the cohort arriving in Walsall may contain larger families of 4 to 6 people.
- 2.11 Careful consideration has been given to whether it would be better to house all the refugees in one location at one of the Council's homeless projects on a temporary basis following arrival. Although this might have allowed partners to gain some efficiency in outreach service delivery, following a risk assessment,

it was felt that the approach could bring unwanted attention by making it more obvious that there was an increase of migrants into the area. There has also been some history of tensions towards migrant communities in some of the locations that were being considered (which could place families at greater risk). It was also noted that the cohort of refugees could have cultural or religious differences making conflicts between them possible.

- 2.12 Although a 'dispersed' approach to re-housing is being recommended, it is noted that efforts must also be made to provide families with the opportunity to socialise and gain English language skills so that they do not become isolated. It is not unusual for refugees to choose not to settle in the first area that they reside in. Many refugees choose to move quickly to other areas of the UK seeking employment or support from larger established groups once able to do so.
- 2.13 The Community Safety Team has already carried out some community profiling and have recommended that temporary accommodation is initially found in Caldmore, Palfrey, Pleck, Birchhills, Chuckery and Alumwell. The reason for this recommendation is because these areas are already culturally diverse and present the lowest risk of community unrest as a result of resettlement of additional migrants.

Appendix 2 Composition and role of Project Team

A small project team has already met and input into this report and these professionals will continue to have a valuable role to play in helping the future sustainable resettlement of families and adults. This work will include but not be limited to developing a service specification for an external organisation to provide specialist services as detailed in Appendix 2.

The professionals include:

- Welfare Rights Advice and Employment Support;
- Housing Re-settlement Support;
- Specialist Language and Cultural Support (expected to be procured from an experienced voluntary sector partner);
- Initial Health Screening / Health Visitor Service;
- Community Cohesion
- Local Policing
- School placement team

The group will review the existing proposals, develop a welcome pack for refugees about Walsall the delivery of the work. A named Council officer will be appointed to lead the overall project day-to-day and ensure that the correct funding is drawn down from the Home Office.

It is anticipated that a named officer within health services will also need to be appointed to coordinate care for those with significant needs and ensure funding is claimed for primary and secondary health services.

Alongside the main Project Team, a wider pool of professionals will also need be established containing named social workers from Adults and Children's services who could be pulled in to offer additional specialist support where needed. It is expected that other key partners such as the police, health and fire services will also provide named professionals for any 'specialist' assistance where there is an identified need. The details about the types of specialist skills required will become clearer once the Home Office shares details about the specific refugees who need our help.

It is understood that the majority of the cohort in Coventry are Sunni Muslim but this may not be the case for Walsall. The project team will need to undertake a mapping exercise to understand the profiles of different faith and ethnic groups in Walsall so that refugees can be given tailored orientation support based on their individual needs.

A detailed health screening process will take place in Syria to identify needs and a robust risk assessment will also take place ensure individuals that have been radicalised or are guilty of war crimes are not included in the cohort. Once refugees are in Walsall they will need assistance to register with local GP's as quickly as possible.

Well co-ordinated communications will play an important role in the success of the re-settlement process. Both written and verbal communications will be essential to achieve an effective flow of information not only between agencies involved but also those being settled. While these could be considered as internal communications in doing so we should in addition pay particular attention to external communications - the role of local (TV, Radio, Print) media will also be an inevitable and ongoing feature of the programme.

Good risk management would suggest that the media could unnecessarily raise the concerns of Walsall residents by using inappropriate headlines that might provoke a negative response from particular sections of our community.

Finding employment will be integral to refugees integrating successfully into the community. The project team will work alongside colleagues from the DWP, Voluntary Sector and other key stakeholders to identify opportunities for voluntary placements and pathways into work.