

NRPF meeting 21.7.08.

1. Minutes and Matters Arising

C & F Assessment guidance

In process, to be circulated for consultation in the near future.

2. Communications Update.

- Birmingham conference.
115 attendees.
UKBA, Local Authority, Birmingham Law Centre and Children's Society spoke on the panel.
- Next conference to be held in Leeds end Sept/Early October.
Topic - Domestic violence

Proposed speakers for Leeds Conference
 - Home office
 - M.P for Rochdale
- OF hopes to be able to give more information at next meeting on retrospective funding for women fleeing domestic violence
- Path to citizenship
UK BA response to consultation has now been published.
Concerned that adding another layer of NRPF after 5 years
- Rough sleeping
- Practices Guidance.

Working with to develop this
- Training For Authorities

Islington is able to provide this, details on the website
- Website

Jonathon Price is updating this, including F.A.Qs
- Network plan

Aiming to develop strategic plan.

3. Meeting with UK BA

Olvia Fellas, BD and Emma Jenkins (from LGA) attended a stakeholder group recently, along with representatives of voluntary organisations. A significant area of discussion was voluntary returns.

OF did a presentation on destitution.

4. Costs and Numbers Report

Emma Jenkins, Olvia Fellas are meeting with UK BA and will present the Costs and numbers report.

Peter Olnor suggested that Case Resolution also be put on the agenda. Some local authorities have negotiated their cases being considered within case resolution but this is not systematic. In the West Midlands some families who have not had a positive decision have been moved to Ashford, Kent- this is an alternative to detention centre.

5. Children + Families Practice Guidance

Key issues

- Assessments appropriate to children and adults as individuals
- Guidance in relation to human rights issues
- Residence orders
- the application of s21 NAA and s17 CA in families.
- Post 18
- E.U. families

It is proposed that there will be illustrative examples in each category.

6. Regional Networks

South East.

This network is not active. A partnership meeting was planned but the UK BA gave apologies at the last minute, so the meeting was cancelled.

West Midlands

Have been meeting for about 18 months, with Local Authority attendance. Consideration has been given to including voluntary organisations but it to felt this will expose the differences between authorities. There has also been discussion about a regional meeting of Local Authority lawyers, but this has not been held to date.

The network met last week with a presentation by IOM which has opened an office in Birmingham.

There was also discussion about the Gnezele judgement, which authorities are responding to differently. However following some research by the Regional Strategic Migration Partnership and a Primary care trust in relation to peri-natal mortality, some work has been undertaken with UK BA to look at resources to support women who seek support late in their pregnancy. No decisions have been reached in relation to this at present but work is ongoing.

Yorkshire Humberside

This group is meeting but with varying levels of knowledge + commitment. No specific issues are being progressed at present.

Manchester and the North-west

Support to people with NRPF is not an acknowledged issue in most authorities.

Current issues are:-

- Increased fuel charges are leading people to request increased payments
- Roma children in Manchester - a number arrived at one school.
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Olvia Fellas clarified the network can after advice to support regional networks.

South West

The region is geographically large + diverse, largely rural.

London

In Harrow there is a “virtual network” with only Local Authority representation, but from a range of services including social work, housing and legal.

Lambeth has taken a significant case in the courts in relation to age assessments Has a single team dealing, with anyone with NRPF. They have reduced cases from people receiving support from over 400 to just under 150 with much more robust assessments. A legal advisor is based in the team.

Islington

Is trying to achieve uniformity

7. Any Other Business

- Community care training event in September.
- Peter Olnor reported that in Birmingham work is underway in relation to manifestly unfounded cases but visa information is needed which the UK BA is not providing. Manchester, Lambeth and Bristol all said they have been able to obtain this information from UK BA
- Difficulties in obtaining information from UK BA has been experienced by Lambeth to a reduction in staff at LA Comms.

8. Next meeting

22.09.2008 at the L.C. A offices, Smith Square, London, following the ADCS/ADASS meeting.