



**NRPF Network Steering Group  
22<sup>nd</sup> September 2008  
Islington Town Hall, London**

**Present:**

Olvia Fellas – LB Islington (Chair)  
Jonathan Price – LB Islington (Minutes)  
Colin Elliot – Manchester City Council  
Henry St Clair Miller – LB Islington  
Janice Grant – Kent CC  
Lynda Lawrence – Sandwell MBC  
Peter Olnier – Birmingham CC  
Rosemary Muffitt – Newcastle CC

**Apologies:**

Becky Lyons – Newcastle CC  
Bill Brittain – RB Kingston  
Emma Jenkins – LGA  
Sheila Ross – Leicester CC  
Ted Brown – Bradford CC

| Notes   | Action points                   |
|---|---------------------------------|
| <p><b>1. Introductions and Apologies</b><br/>Olvia welcomed Janice Grant to the Network Steering Group and also Rosemary Muffitt who attended on behalf of Becky Lyons.</p> <p>Minutes of the previous meeting are to be uploaded to the Network webpages.</p>  | <p align="center"><b>JP</b></p> |
| <p><b>2. Minutes and Matters Arising</b><br/>Colin noted that Manchester CC had received a freedom of information request on the costs of providing support to NRPF clients. They will provide data requested in due course. Kent and Islington have also received FOI requests for similar information.</p> <p>Colin also announced that he is moving on from his current post at Manchester CC and will therefore no longer sit on the Network SG. Olvia thanked Colin for his hard work and said that we'd be sad to see him go.</p> |                                 |
| <p><b>3. Communications Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upcoming event in Leeds (Domestic violence)</li> </ul> <p>Jonathan said that the domestic violence conference in Leeds is highly oversubscribed which highlights the interest in this issue. Speakers on the</p>  |                                 |

panel are particularly high profile. Jonathan sought views on the topic of the following conference. It was suggested that post-18 leaving care was an appropriate topic because of the UASC reform programme. Access to healthcare should be put off until reforms have settled.

- Consultations – Home Affairs Committee; UKBA Public Scrutiny Questionnaire

Jonathan said that the Network response to the Home Affairs Committee had been sent and apologised that it hadn't been sent to the SG for comment as the burglary at St Albans Place had made working difficult. The UKBA public scrutiny questionnaire which is likely to be a similar document would be sent out at the end of the week.

- Meeting with Strategic Migration Partnership Managers

Jonathan reported back from the meeting with the Strategic Migration Partnership (RSMP) Managers in Portsmouth, which was a success. There was considerable interest in developing regional networks in the regions. The Network is planning an event in the East of England towards the end of October with Ian Beattie, which will launch a regional network in the region. Peter said that the West Midlands RSMP had been crucial in providing support for the regional network there. The network had kept NRPF issues on the agenda in the region and provides an opportunity for practitioners to share information and good practice.

Olvia noted that the London network will try to get the Greater London Authority involved in the meetings as they currently hold the funding for the London Strategic Migration Partnership.

**4. Domestic Violence**

The Interpersonal Violence Unit at the Home Office will send out an amended proposal for retrospective funding for victims of DV with NRPF for broader consultation. This will give an opportunity for all SG members to provide their thoughts and comments on the proposal.

**OF to circulate**

**5. Impact of Slough Ruling**

Peter has produced a briefing on the Slough judgement, which he will circulate to SG members. He added that the fall out of withdrawing support is worrying and Birmingham are trying to get as many cases resolved through the case resolution directorate.

Henry said that the National AIDS Trust have produced a briefing on the Slough judgement, which he will circulate to the SG. It is a useful document as it provides a more client-oriented perspective

**OF/JP to circulate**

Rosemary has another legal interpretation which she will circulate to the SG

**RM to circulate**

Jonathan said that the Network practice guidance would be updated in light of the Slough judgement.

Rosemary noted that some clients in Newcastle were claiming secure tenancies under the Housing Act, which was problematic in regards to closing cases. Peter said that people with NRPF are not eligible for secure tenancies.

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| <b>6. Feedback from meeting with UKBA</b><br>Olvia said the NRPF Financial Report was received well by the UKBA and would be elevated through the organisation, although she is unsure how far. The UKBA will issue a formal response to the report, which will be circulated to the steering group. |  |
| <b>7. Next meeting</b><br>Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> November - Venue and time TBC  |  |