



**NRPF Network Steering Group Meeting**  
**12<sup>th</sup> February 2009**  
**3 – 5 pm**

**Committee Room 3, Council House Extension, Margaret St, Birmingham**

**Present:**

Nicola Rae (Manchester SMP)  
Bill Davies (Manchester CC)  
Lynda Lawrence (Sandwell MBC)  
Ted Brown (Bradford CC)  
Ian Beattie (LGA)  
Peter Olnier (Birmingham CC)  
Carey Baff (Birmingham CC)  
Mary Blanche (Kent CC)

**Apologies:**

Bill Brittain (LB B&D)  
Jonathan Price (NRPF Network)  
Mark Rapley (LB Lambeth)

**Chair and Minutes:**

Olvia Fellas (LB Islington)

**1. Matters arising from previous minutes:**

- Regional Networks – West Midlands Network are seeking views of members in regards to publishing minutes on the website.
- Section 4 – Ian has a meeting with Section 4 team and would be happy to take forward key issues steering group members are experiencing with Section 4. Delays in processing Section 4 cases are still an issue for local authorities. UKBA state on website that applications for Section 4 are processed within 9 working days but experience indicates this is taking longer.
- Birmingham Adults team are working with UKBA CRD to work through cases post Slough. Peter will email Ian with a short paragraph outlining cases so Ian can take fwd case examples for meeting.
- Communication regarding CRD from UKBA to LAs – letter sent from CRD to CE's asking who within LA is best to communicate with. UKBA

have devolved Section 4 cases to regions but the legacy cases are still being dealt with through Croydon.

## **2. Communications Update**

Guidance on supporting adults is due to be finalised by end of February and will be available on website.

Jonathan attended meeting in November 2008 with Inter Personal Violence Unit regarding the retrospective funding grant for individuals fleeing DV with NRPF. Still awaiting an outcome of the final proposal, expected by end of the month.

Event with Red Cross scheduled for mid March in Cardiff on rights of A8 and A2 nationals.

## **3. NRPF Network Funding**

Department of Communities and Local Government have agreed to provide part-funding to NRPF Network of £35,000 for 2009/10. Will discuss funding from UKLBA when we meet with them next week.

## **4. Costs and Number Report:**

Network has not received a response from UKBA following the meeting to discuss costs and numbers report.

*Action: Olivia to follow-up with UKBA, requesting a formal response.*

## **5. Steering group meeting dates:**

Steering group agreed that we will add 1 more meeting date to current schedule (ADASS/ADCS Asylum Taskgroup only meeting 3 times this year).

*Action: New date to be set for July 2009.*

## **6. Contact database**

NRPF Network has submitted a bid for funding from I&DeA to create a database of NRPF cases that local authorities are supporting. Will find out by beginning of March if funding successful.

## **7. Steering Group ToRs**

Discussed Terms of Reference and all agreed that it is important for members to attend a minimum number of meetings over the year, as well as presenting regional issues.

## **8. Subsistence rates:**

Subsistence rates were discussed. Some authorities paying 70% of Income Support rates similar to mainstream Sec 95 payments, other authorities

paying Section 4 rates. Ted requested that Jonathan undertake some mapping of subsistence rates nationally so we have a better picture of what is happening across local authorities. Olvia suggested that this might be easier to do on a regional level, although it would be good to agree a process about how to determine subsistence rates.

*Action: Regional leads to collate information regarding subsistence rates and bring back to national group.*

## **9. Regional Updates:**

**9.1 West Midlands:** Review of cases post-Slough, C&F drafting protocol for NRPF families, Carey has provided training to teams regarding NRPF. Issues re Section 4 have been raised with local UKBA team and Subsistence rates were also discussed at last meeting.

**9.2 South East:** Regional meeting in April to establish if a regional network is required. Receiving increasing referrals for EU destitute migrants with families and have been supporting families to return home by paying for tickets.

**9.3 North West:** Review of cases post Slough, working with case resolution team regarding single adult cases, although family cases are increasing.

**9.4 Yorkshire & Humberside:** Regional Network meetings are taking place on regular basis. Most larger cities and towns represented. Advice received from Legal has been to not make too much of an issue out of Slough ruling, as cases are reviewed, deal with issues in line with Slough ruling. All regional meetings in Leeds and well represented. Discussing regional procedures and how they feed in to national network. Also looking at role of RSMP and how they could support the regional meeting.

**9.5 East of England:** have had an initial regional meeting. Using costs and numbers report to raise issue with CE's to better understand the concerns.

## **10. AOB:**

- IOM – Carey raised concern with regards to IOM being slow in supporting individuals to return to country of origin. Olvia mentioned that meeting with IOM has been scheduled with Network to raise both strategic and operational issues.

*Action: All to email Olvia in next two weeks with case examples of dealings/ concerns re IOM to feed into meeting.*