

No Recourse to Public Funds Network

Yorkshire and Humberside Regional Meeting **Held at Waterside Court, Kirkstall Road,** **Leeds**

5th December 2007

Apologies:

Doncaster
Kirklees

Present:

IOM
North Lincs
Hull
Sheffield
YHRMP
Wakefield
Barnsley
Leeds
BIA
Calderdale
CTU

Introductions

This was the first NRPF Yorkshire and Humberside regional meeting, and a representative from the National Migration Co-ordinating Team made the opening presentation. The Local Government Association sees NRPF as a pressure on many local authorities and needs more co-ordinated information to take to Government. There is no grant claim to get money back at the moment.

The purpose of the meeting was to spread knowledge of the NRPF network, to share experience, to encourage a uniform approach to NRPF work and to collect evidence to put before central government.

The main work streams seem to be migrant workers in difficulty, domestic violence cases, asylum seekers with chronic health problems and failed asylum seekers who have gone on to have or acquire children.

All local authority Chief Executives have been sent a letter requesting them to appoint NRPF 'Lead Officers'. In our region that would be 30 Lead Officers.

Reports from attendees

Barnsley reported small numbers of cases in Barnsley, with particular issues around mental health.

Bradford reported upwards of 100 cases of all types in Adults and Children's Services combined.

Calderdale reported complex cases being dealt with by Adult Care Social Team. These were straining staff resources.

Hull reported problems.

Leeds was in the process of collecting figures, but the situation and range of cases seemed to be growing, with a desire to see more cases resolved, more quickly. Leeds Adult Services reported many mental health and domestic violence cases.

In North Lincolnshire, numbers were not “massive”, and domestic violence was the most common problem.

Sheffield reported 139 supported cases.

Wakefield recognised the problem and expressed concern about community cohesion. Cases tended to be supported in *ad hoc*.

The Border and Immigration Agency gave a brief description of the Legacy Project.

Officers from the CTU outlined changes since Special Branch was disbanded and the Counter Terrorism Units were established. The Units liaise with local authority departments and other local organisations, which are invited to report suspicious activity.

The International Organization for Migration gave a brief introduction to the IOM. It is an Inter-Governmental Organisation established in 1951 and operational in the UK since 1990. The IOM offers help to returning migrants and has offices in London, Liverpool, Glasgow and Bristol.

It was agreed that we should meet regularly, and look for opportunities to promote and develop information sharing and training, together with partner organisations, e.g. the health services.

Meetings might include news, business and training, with early meetings to consider sharing policies and procedures and other data.

We will circulate the cost data template already sent out to Chief Executives by the NRPF network.

Four national NRPF events are to be held in the regions during the next year.

The Yorkshire & Humber Regional Migration Partnership suggested that the Partnership might play a role as the Network establishes itself regionally, with inclusion of NRPF information on the regional website.

Date of next meeting

To be arranged