

YORKSHIRE & HUMBERSIDE NO RECOURSE TO PUBLIC FUNDS
Regional Meeting
Held on 2nd September 2009 (10-12)
Leeds Civic Hall

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Chair: TB/AC	Note taker: DH
Attendance: TB Bradford, LJ Kirklees, HN Kirklees, KH Sheffield, EH Sheffield, BW Wakefield, AC Rotherham, LS IOM	Apologies: BD Kirklees, KB Leeds, JW Barnsley, NF Leeds

	<u>Action</u>
<p>1. Apologies</p> <p>2. Minutes of last meeting agreed.</p> <p>3. TB introduced LS from IOM. LS reported that IOM was an independent, international organisation - not part of the UK government. Up to a year ago there was no regional office for Yorkshire & Humberside. There are now regional offices at Glasgow, Bristol, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester and Birmingham. Their main purpose is to assist Migrants.</p> <p>LS outlined the two area which would be of interest to the Group. These were:</p> <p>AVRIM - "Assisted voluntary return of irregular migrants". They will assist anyone from outside of the UK who have not claimed asylum to return.</p> <p>They can assist with onward travel, 3 months accommodation, educational/employment advice. Popular option is small business help. They also guarantee an employer to pay the first 3 months wages for an employee returning from UK. They offer a temporary housing grant of £500. (Each family member is entitled to £500 cash when they arrive at the airport).</p> <p>VARRP - This scheme is for people who have claimed asylum and want to go home.</p> <p>They can assist minors and also people with medical care /needs.</p> <p>IOM can help people with ongoing asylum claims if they want to</p>	

return to the home country.

LS asked if there were any questions. EH, Sheffield asked about chronic care/medical needs. LS said that information of a website which might be helpful could be obtained from IOM. IOM will aim to give the client "informed choice".

EH asked of political arrangements i.e. Zimbabwe. IOM have a memorandum of understanding with every country they were placed in. LS informed the group to her knowledge they had helped over 50 people to return to Zimbabwe this year.

AC Rotherham asked how long LAs would be expected to support migrant workers before the IOM package becomes operational. LS reported that if the client held a passport, fingerprinting takes place at present in London on Tuesday and it often takes 10-14 days then for approval - but can take up to between 3 weeks and 3 months before travelling can be arranged.

IOM cannot help A8's but advised first check their Embassy. Some Social Services had funding available to assist with coach tickets. The Red Cross in Leeds will assist with plane tickets.

TB reported Bradford's experiences setting Polish people as an example. He said it was often cheaper for LA's to pay travel costs rather than pay for accommodation.

IOM reported that clients forcibly removed were banned re-entry to the UK for 10 years. IOM assisted returns were banned re-entry for 5 years.

LS, IOM, handed out folders of information with printing in many languages.

4. TB Bradford introduced AC Rotherham to the group as Joint Chair.

5. UKBA Update: Asylum intake continues to be low.

A Section 4 initiative went live 6th July for customers to be seen at the Identity and Passport Service offices.

Project "Street Homeless" is being trialled in Birmingham and may be rolled out nationally.

Low intake is affecting some LA's asylum teams. UKBA representative would take this back and raise matters at

<p>UKBA. This would be reported back at the next meeting.</p> <p>6. Section 4: TB Bradford/AC Rotherham reported they'd had a meeting at UKBA recently. TB had received a new telephone contact list. DH Bradford to circulate to all members. Members were advised there was a telephone number in Liverpool to use to speed up the process for legacy cases.</p> <p>TB/AC discussed the length of time for cases to receive a decision and allocate accommodation. UKBA is looking at the present process to try to avoid delays.</p> <p>TB suggested that LA's keep 'logs' of delays in dealing with Section 4 i.e., what difficulties/when/why. Then TB/AC can take these issues to UKBA meetings.</p> <p>EH Sheffield reported that her unit were assessing around 50 failed asylum seekers. Experiencing difficulties. She has been told ARE asylum seekers on NA support can only apply for accommodation from within 14 days of being made homeless.</p> <p>UKBA representative to try to look into this matter on our behalf.</p>	<p>DH</p> <p>TB/AC</p>
<p>7. Case Resolution: (Cases pre March 2007 cases including section 95 and Section 4)</p> <p>It was reported that UKBA were looking at terminating all supported cases by March 2010. No clear instructions at this time.</p> <p>AC Rotherham said this would impact on all LA's.</p> <p>TB Bradford felt that case resolution would not solve our NRPF issues. It was still going to be expensive for LA's.</p> <p>TB Bradford reported for immigration status check - check locally general claims were still problematic.</p> <p>8. Data Protection National NRPF Network</p> <p>TB Bradford reported the National Network had obtained a grant to create a database of all NRPF cases nationally. It required all LAs to collate data on all cases supported. TB had received a draft of this and had agreed with UKBA that this should be piloted by Bradford initially. DH will</p>	<p>UKBA</p>

<p>circulate this database to LA's. TB requests that as a region, all LA's report back to TB on the use of this database.</p> <p>TB Bradford reminded the group that all LA's have a statutory requirement to report to UKBA all the cases each LA supports.</p> <p>TB Bradford reported that we now have 2 NRPF distribution lists. TB to work with DH to usefully modify who we are in contact with.</p> <p>9. Regional Training: This had to be abandoned due to lack of funding. TB to try to look into where funding for this training can be sought.</p> <p>10. YHRMP: The Yorkshire & Humberside Regional Migration Partnership have several sub-groups. AC Rotherham felt we need to liaise with this organisation. TB/AC will meet with Rob Warm about strategic issues which need sorting out.</p> <p>11. Feedback from the region: EH Sheffield reported taking on a large amount of work as a project team after the Slough Judgement. Most LAs were dealing with this in a piecemeal way and in a less structured manner.</p> <p>12. Legal Update: No further information at present.</p> <p>13. Any other business: It was requested that the following be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.</p> <p>Ordinary Residence: Consultation Document:</p> <p>EH Sheffield to confirm this by email to TB/DH Bradford.</p> <p>14. Date of next meeting: <i>Thursday 17th December 2009, 2-4pm at St George House, 40 Great George Street, Leeds LS1 3DL</i></p>	<p>DH</p> <p>TB/DH</p> <p>TB</p> <p>TB/AC/RW</p> <p>EH</p>
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