

**No Recourse to Public Funds London Regional
Network
Minutes of the Meeting of 16th September 2008
Held from 1400 - 1530 at
Westminster City Hall**

Present: Bill Brittain (chair), Hugh Cole, Deborah Knapp, Olivia Fellas, Jonathan Price, Ian Smith, Simeon Barnes, Glenda Gallacher, Stefan Chapleo, Mawoli Beckley-Kartey, Paul Balier, Simon Wadsworth, Barbara Trimblett, Arantzazu Faiges, Ernell Watson, Meg Rainey, Kwesi Adabunu, Bisi Tubi

Apologies: none

Matters Arising:

- The mailing list is being updated.
- Subsistence rates have been circulated but some rates have changed. **ACTION** Please send any updated rates to Louise Maxey.
- Front Line Practitioners Forum – it was agreed that there should be a practitioner's forum event. A subgroup was proposed to plan it for March/April 2009. Simon Wadsworth, Bill Brittain and Olivia Fellas will form the subgroup. **ACTION** Olivia will send out an email to arrange a meeting of the sub group.

Agenda:

1. Slough Ruling

The House of Lords ruling overturns the ruling about people who are destitute plus. The new ruling means that people need to require tangible services and have current needs. This is more than only needing accommodation and financial assistance in order to qualify for s21 support. People only needing medical care may not qualify for assistance under s21. Care and attention is now defined as 'looking after'.

Camden has already discharged some people from support having reviewed their needs.

Those who have mental health needs may be more complicated, particularly those with lower mental health needs.

The home office have a named officer to communicate with each local authority. Olivia will get list of the dedicated officers.

The Slough judgement is not likely to impact on domestic violence.

2. NRPF Network update

The Birmingham Conference in July was attended by 110 people. The Leeds conference on domestic violence is on October 7th.

Supplementary guidance about working with children and families is being developed and should be ready by end of October. Guidance is also being developed about A10, A8 and A2 migrants.

The report about costs and numbers of supported people by local authorities has been sent to the home office, and a formal response is awaited. The research found that Las are supporting 4,000 individuals at a cost of £33.4M. This is an 8% increase on costs for 2006/7.

The website is being further developed and any feedback will be welcome.

Islington has developed a training programme which has been used in Southwark and Milton Keynes. The cost for a full day is £750 for up to 10 participants, plus £75 per participant.

3. Home Affairs Committee

New rules would mean a person who has voluntarily returned home will be prevented from returning to the UK for 5 years.

4. Leeds Case

Case about whether pregnant and nursing mothers, who are refused asylum seekers, should be supported under Section 21 or Section 4.
To be summarised in next NRPF briefing.

5. Domestic Violence

Islington has held discussions with Home Office about retrospective funding for DV cases for women who entered UK with a Spousal Visa and where the marriage broke down in the first 2 years.

6. Age Assessment

Information to be circulated.

7. Glenda Gallacher

Will not be attending meetings until the New Year.

8. GLA

Proposal to strengthen our links with GLA and UKBA by inviting a representative to attend meetings.

Next Meeting 9 December 2.00pm

Westminster City Hall

64 Victoria Street

Room 7, 17th Floor