

# Report

Report to: **Executive Committee**  
 Date of Meeting: **29 January 2020**  
 Report by: **Executive Director (Housing and Technical Resources)**  
**Executive Director (Education Resources)**  
**Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)**

Subject: **Syrian Refugee Resettlement Programme (SRRP)**

## **1. Purpose of Report**

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ provide the Committee with an overview of the progress of the current Syrian Refugee Resettlement Programme (SRRP) as outlined in the report and detailed at Appendix 1
- ♦ request approval for the introduction of the UK Global Refugee Programme (GRP) within South Lanarkshire commencing April 2020
- ♦ request approval to increase the staffing establishment to assist in delivering the future programme

## **2. Recommendation(s)**

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the second Annual Report on the Syrian Refugee Resettlement Programme, and the intention to provide members with an update report on the programme by Autumn 2020, be noted;
- (2) that the introduction of the UK Global Refugee Programme (GRP) in South Lanarkshire from April 2020 be approved; and
- (3) that the existing Syrian Refugee Resettlement Team and Youth, Family and Community Learning Officers (ESOL) be permanently added to the establishment and 1 FTE Support Officer and 0.5 FTE Administration Assistant also be added to the establishment.

## **3. Background**

3.1. The current Syrian Refugee Resettlement Programme (SRRP) is designed to assist Syrians who have fled to countries neighbouring Syria as a result of the ongoing conflict in their home country. In order to qualify for the Programme, individuals/families are classed as vulnerable where they are survivors of violence and torture, women and children at risk and those needing medical care. The UK Government initiated the SRRP during 2015 with the intention to resettle 20,000 Syrian refugees in the UK within a five year period, up to 2020. Approximately 3,000 Syrians will have been resettled in Scotland by the end of the current Programme in March 2020.

3.2. All Scottish Local Authorities have participated in the Programme. The Council's Executive Committee approved South Lanarkshire participation in the Programme on 4 November 2015.

- 3.3. As part of the planning arrangements and following discussions with partners directly involved with the Programme, the Executive Committee approved, on 15 May 2018, that up to 240 individuals would be resettled in South Lanarkshire during the period December 2015 to March 2020.
- 3.4. An overview of progress made since the first arrivals in December 2015 to April 2018 was reported to the Community Planning Partnership Board on 24 October 2018 and the second Annual Report, May 2018 to June 2019, which is attached as Appendix 1, was reported to the Community Planning Partnership Board on 23 October 2019.
- 3.5. All funding for the Programme comes from the Home Office, through the UK Aid budget, and costs are covered on a flexible unit cost approach giving the ability to pool the resources, if required, for a particular family.
- 3.6. Local Authorities receive funding for each individual resettled for a period of 5 years with the following unit costs in year one:-

Children under the age of 3	£ 8,520
Children aged 3-4	£11,770
Children aged 5-18	£14,020
Adults in receipt of mainstream benefits	£ 8,520
Other adults	£ 8,520

These costs are subject to a tapered reduction in the following years.

- 3.7. Families arriving through the Programme have permission to reside in the UK for 5 years from the date of arrival and have Refugee status and rights. At the end of the 5 year period families are required to apply to the Home Office for Indefinite Leave to Remain in the UK. The Resettlement Team are working with families, who will be at this stage by December 2020 and beyond, to support them through this process. This will continue to be a particular focus for the team. The Resettlement Team will also provide guidance to families who wish to become UK Citizens 12 months after receipt of their Indefinite Leave to Remain.

#### **4. Current situation**

- 4.1. As at December 2019, there are 47 families (173 individuals) settled across the South Lanarkshire area.
- 4.2. On arrival, the families require initial intensive support to assist with integration. The families are supported by Housing and Technical Resources' specialist support provision, the Syrian Refugee Resettlement Team (SRRT), consisting of one full time Advisor and three full time Support Officers. Costs for this team are fully covered by the Home Office funding.
- 4.3. As part of the agreement with the Home Office, there is a requirement that individuals over the age of 18 will receive a minimum of 8 hours of English language support per week, through the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) provision. Costs for two ESOL Tutors, specifically working with Syrian individuals, is fully covered by Home Office funding.
- 4.4. The Refugee Resettlement and Youth, Family and Community Learning Officers (ESOL) Teams work closely to ensure that individuals and families receive the practical, emotional and language support appropriate to their needs.

## **5. Final Year of Current Programme – March 2020**

- 5.1. The Home Office have confirmed that the current Syrian Refugee Resettlement Programme would come to an end in March 2020 – with approximately 20,000 Syrians resettled throughout the UK.

## **6. New Global Programme – Commencing April 2020**

- 6.1. The UK Government has reaffirmed its commitment to the resettlement of refugees. A new Global Resettlement Programme will be introduced from April 2020. It will consolidate a number of other refugee schemes into one Global Programme. The current programmes include:-
- ◆ Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Programme (VPRS);
  - ◆ Vulnerable Children's Resettlement scheme (VCRS); and
  - ◆ Gateway Protection Programme (GPP – resettles refugees from across the world).
- 6.2. The Home Office have advised that the funding package will mirror that currently provided under the VPRS and VCRS, as outlined in paragraph 3.6., and the current 6 month reporting system between the Council and Home Office will be retained.
- 6.3. The Home Office confirmed that they propose to settle 5,000 refugees, UK wide, through the new Programme within the first year 2020/2021. This figure equates to the current level of resettlement UK wide within the Syrian Programme. Decisions on the number of refugees to be resettled in subsequent years will be determined by the Home Office through future spending rounds.
- 6.4. The Home Office will continue to identify and resettle the most vulnerable refugees, identified and referred by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).
- 6.5. The Home Office anticipates that resettlement will “continue to look broadly similar to those under existing schemes” therefore Syrian Refugees will still be in the majority of individuals/families involved in the new Global Programme. However, there are other countries where assistance may be required in future, with the Home Office indicating that assistance may be required outwith the Middle East and North Africa.
- 6.6. Areas currently covered by the Gateway Protection Programme (GPP) are Somalia, Myanmar, Sudan, Palestine, Afghanistan and the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- 6.7. Participation in the new Global Programme is voluntary and participation arrangements are expected to suit local needs and requirements.

## **7. Proposed Forward Programme**

- 7.1. The Syrian Refugee Resettlement Programme has worked extremely well in South Lanarkshire due to the participation of Community Planning Partners in all aspects of planning and integration. Close working arrangements have provided very positive outcomes for the individuals and families resettled in the area – examples of which are highlighted in the second Syrian Refugee Resettlement Annual Report attached as Appendix 1.
- 7.2. Given the positive outcomes and the ongoing humanitarian issues faced by Syrians and others, it is proposed that South Lanarkshire Council participates in the new Global Resettlement Programme from April 2020, for an initial period of 3 years, or until financial or immigration rules change.

- 7.3. It is proposed that the initial support required from South Lanarkshire would be based on the original calculation of 6% of the Scottish population and Scotland's proportionate share (10%) of the proposed 5,000 refugees arriving during the first year of the new Global Programme (2020/2021), which would equate approximately to 30 individuals.
- 7.4. The Syrian Resettlement Support Team and 2 Youth, Family and Community Learning Officers (ESOL) currently have temporary or seconded contracts in place since the commencement of the Resettlement Programme and it is therefore proposed that the current posts become permanent within the Housing and Technical Resources and Education Resources' establishments.
- 7.5. It is proposed that a further Refugee Support Officer and an Administration Assistant (part-time) are appointed to assist with the future Programme.

## **8. Employee Implications**

- 8.1. The Resettlement Team and Youth, Family and Community Learning Officers (ESOL) posts have been graded in line with the Council's job evaluation scheme. These posts will be added to the establishment on a permanent basis subject to approval.

Post	Existing	Proposed	Grade/SC P	Hourly Rate	Annual Salary	Total Costs
Refugee Resettlement Programme Advisor	1	1	Grade 4 Level 5  SCP 86-88	£24.65- £25.42	£46,388 - £48,268	£60,444 – £62,894
Refugee Support Officers	3	4	Grade 2 Level 3-4  SCP 42-57	£11.44 - £14.06	£20,876 - £25,658	£129,732 - £152,560
Administration Assistant	0	0.5	Grade 2 - Level 1  SCP 34-35	£11.44 - £11.63 -	£20,877 - £21,224	£27,202 - £27,655
Youth, Family & Community Learning Officers (ESOL)	2	2	Grade 3 Level 2  SCP 63-65	£17.55 - £18.06	£32,026 - £32,958	£83,460 – £85,888

## **9. Financial Implications**

- 9.1. There are no financial implications to the Council as a result of the proposals within this report. All cost relating to the SRRP and new Global Programme are met by the Home Office.

## **10. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications**

- 10.1. There are no climate change, sustainability or environmental implications.

## **11. Other Implications**

- 11.1. There are no other implications.

## **12. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

- 12.1. No Equalities Impact Assessment was undertaken for the information contained within this report as the Programme arrangements are outwith the control of the Council.

**Danny Lowe**

**Executive Director (Housing & Technical Resources)**

**Tony McDaid**

**Executive Director (Education Resources)**

**Paul Manning**

**Executive Director (Finance & Corporate Resources)**

9 January 2020

### **Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives**

- ♦ Working with and respecting others

### **Previous References**

- ♦ Executive Committee Report – 16 May 2018
- ♦ Executive Committee Report – 7 September 2016
- ♦ Executive Committee Report – 11 May 2016
- ♦ Executive Committee Report – 4 November 2015
- ♦ Executive Committee Report – 23 September 2015

### **List of Background Papers**

- ♦ None

### **Contact for further information:**

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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