## Leeds Migration

# Partnership

**LMP Operations Group – 26th November 2018 action notes**

1. Welcome, Introductions and apologies

Ali Mahmood welcomed everyone and explained the format for the meeting.

Agenda was agreed

Notes taken by Daniel Mundet (PATH Yorkshire).

1. Matters arising from previous minutes

No matters arising

1. LMP Communication

Daniel Mundet explained that John Beech (LASSN), Richard Orton and Georgia Ellis (RETAS) are developing a LMP communication strategy. They’ve prepared a questionnaire that can be completed online on the LMP blog page (<https://migrationpartnership.org.uk/what-do-you-think-of-the-lmp-blog/>) . The objective is to gather feedback on how to improve.

Attendees mentioned that the “resource of the week” section was very useful.

1. Regional updates – Migration Yorkshire

Liz Maddocks presented the last update on the Regional Report on Migration Issues. Amongst other aspects the report highlights that several policies associated with the ‘hostile environment’ have been suspended or reversed, including immigration checks on bank accounts, as well as the memorandum of understanding under which the NHS was required to share patients’ details with the Home Office.

With regards the delays in awarding the new housing contract by the Home Office Liz explained that there might be additional constraints if there are further delays on awarding the contract and it might be even the case that it will not be even feasible to award the contract to some other organisation than G4S

1. Refugee Week – Ali Mahgoub

Ali Mahgoub explained that preparations for the 16th- 23rd June 2019 Refugee week have already started. Some of the main activities will be: football tournament, the Gala in the Burmantoffs area, a number of different training (first aid, radio and networking), drama workshops, long walks across the city, film screening…etc.

Anyone interested in organising any activity or in being a member of the Refugee Week Steering Committee should get in contact with Ali Mahgoub.

1. Next meeting dates

Next LMP Operations group meeting dates are:

4th March

17th June (with a celebration element to mark the Refugee week)

23rd September

11th November

Next LMP Strategy group meeting dates are:

16th January

15th May

11th September

27th November

1. Updates from members

Refugee Council. Their children team offers therapeutic support on resettlement. They also run a homework club on a Monday and its open for new referrals. They have be starting a project called New Roots.

This project will be supporting refugees on a number of key aspects of settling in Leeds. This is a partnership project that currently includes: British Refugee Council (lead partner), Refugee Education & Training Advice Service (RETAS), Goodwin Trust Haven and Humber Community Advice Services and PATH Yorkshire. It is a two year project. It’s funded by the Asylum and Migration Integration Fund (AMIF) of the Home Office and the European Union ESF funds. The project aims to recruit and engage 3568 refugees with multiple and complex needs based in the following cities: London, Leeds & Hull. Over a period of two years, NR will provide a range of holistic, intensive and enhanced support activities, adding significant value to limited refugee integration provision in the local area and improving integration outcomes. Participants benefit from a bespoke, wrap-around programme that supports integration into their host city/ community through 3 stages:

1. Engage: specialist casework (move on / crisis support);

2. Connect: social integration, language & wellbeing activities;

3. Aspire: training, volunteering and employment opportunities.

Refugee Council is the lead partner. PATH will be delivering the activities related to the Aspire stage in Leeds. The other partners delivering NR in Leeds are RETAS and Leeds Refugee Council. Drop-in sessions take place every Thursday at 10.00 at Oak House.

West Yorkshire Destitution Asylum Network (WYDAN). The Hardship Fund (cash payments to destitute asylum seekers during winter time) will start the first week of December. Money for the fund will be raised through a number of events.

The Night Shelter provides accommodation and food for up to 10 destitute men asylum seekers on different hosting organisations (mosques, synagogues, churches…etc.) that operate on a rota basis. There is a need for more hosting organisations and for volunteers support the running of the shelter. People interested should contact Andrew and Katrina at WYDAN. The next WYDAN meeting will be on the 14th of January at 13.30 at Oak House.

PAFRAS. They have started the “Young Migrants Matter” project in partnership with The Children Society. The project will offer 1-2-1 support and activity based work.

They support Wednesday drop-ins (10:00-13:00) at Saint Aidan Church. People attending the drop-ins are mostly from Eritrea and Pakistan. They are struggling to engage with young people. They could also support people seeking asylum.

Rainbow Hearts project. They run two once a fortnight groups (Thursday 10-12.30 at the One Community Centre) for women seeking asylum in Leeds. Women of all ages come together to give and receive emotional support from other women who have had similar experiences.  Health and social-support information sessions are offered around topics that are useful for the women such as self-care, well-being and healthy eating.  We often have creative sessions such as therapeutic art activities. They run a really successful Zumba group with Touchstone.

Refugee Forum. They will start the “One Community Art” project on January, in partnership with two community art groups.

They will start a project on financial inclusion and literacy for migrant and refugees. This project is funded through the Lowell Fund.

The youth group organises many activities to support an increasing number of young people. Support is always welcomed.

Freedom from Torture. They work with other organisations to support survivors of torture. The City of Sanctuary resource pack on mental health has been extremely helpful and useful.

Homeless Charter. The refugee fund has raised £600 over the last month. They are part of the Big Change Fund that it’s being piloted in Leeds.

PATH Yorkshire. There are currently four projects relevant to the group:

* STEP project. To support the long term unemployed (more than 12 months) into a 6 months paid work placement in Third Sector Organisations. Referrals and also TSO organisations interested in offering a placement should contact PATH. All expenses will be covered and PATH will be providing 1-2-1 support to individuals throughout the placement.
* ESOL Classes. Talk English Project. Ongoing basic level ESOL classes across Leeds.
* Connecting Opportunities. Project to support refugees and new migrants to develop their skills and opportunities to find work and be part of the local community. There is support available for improving English, developing the skills needed to gain employment in the UK, feeling part of the community and increasing confidence and well-being.
* New Roots (already explained by Refugee Council).

**Next meeting: Monday 4th March at 10.00. One Community Centre.**