

## APPENDIX 4

### Initial Progress Update – Review of Asylum Seeker Services

No.	Recommendation	Responsibility	Date	Evidence of Progress Presented to Committee June 2018	Assessment of progress June 2018 Categories 1 - 4
1.	<b>That a clear pathway and information about what asylum seeker services are on offer in Stockton-on-Tees is provided.</b>	Satnam Singh	June 2018	We have had two Stockton Migration Partnership (SMP) meetings to date. Currently SBC and the British Red Cross are developing an information booklet to support asylum seekers and refugees organisations to develop and promote clear pathways for referrals for support. The resource booklet will be a directory of services offering information, advice and support for migrants, asylum seekers and refugees. The directory will be circulated in July 2018 to the SMP for any final comments. Also the next SMP meeting will be held on the 11 <sup>th</sup> of July with public health and Teesside University as guest speakers.	2
2.	<b>Acknowledging the frequent issues raised in relation to unrelated adult asylum seekers being forced to room-share, the Committee strongly object to such practice, but note that any attempts at preventing this would be difficult to enforce. The Committee does however encourage the</b>	Steven Hume	January 2018	The issue of forced room sharing and the formal objection of the local authority has been raised via the North East Migration Partnership. This has been communicated to the Home Office as part of its consideration for the new asylum contract which is currently out to	2

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	<b>Government to consider the position on room-sharing of unrelated adults when forming the post-2019 asylum contracts.</b>			tender.  A meeting to discuss the issue of forced room sharing has also taken place in Stockton. At the present time officers are looking to establish the scale of room sharing across the borough and any associated issues which have been reported by service users.	
3.	<b>That the North East Migration Partnership (NEMP) should ensure it continues to effectively represent the views of Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, in the context of effective representation and involvement of all Local Authorities in the region.</b>	Steven Hume/Janine Hartley	January 2018	NEMP continues to represent with views of Stockton. Stockton continues to engage in the process with regular contributions from the lead officer and lead elected member for asylum and migration.	1
4.	<b>That there should be closer working with local voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations, including:</b>  <b>A. Ensuring that asylum seekers have the confidence and awareness to support their ability to raise issues of concern</b>	Satnam Singh	October 2018	Stockton VCS are represented at the SMP ensuring that VCS organisations are linked into migration and asylum matters/ concerns. SBC are also	1

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	<p>to the VCS and the Council, contributing to the intelligence needed to support action such as targeted inspections (of poor quality private rented accommodation) where necessary</p> <p><b>B. Enhanced links with refugee-led community organisations (RCOs) via the Regional Refugee Forum North East to increase understanding of asylum seeker issues/concern</b></p>			<p>represented at a number of voluntary and community sector partnerships, Tees Valley Sanctuary, Stockton Refugee week working group and catalyst multi-cultural forum. SBC will be continuing to attend and support these networks.</p> <p>The half day workshop sessions held by the Home office and G4S regards with the new 'COMPASS' contract have taken place and a number of stakeholders attended.</p> <p>The Regional Refugee Forum (RFF) North East in conjunction with the SBC senior diversity and cohesion officer have developed and delivered a number of training sessions targeting social workers to increase the understanding and knowledge of asylum seekers issues/concerns. RRF have also been commissioned by SBC deliver a pilot half-day session in September 2018 regards to Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children (UASC) to social workers</p>	2

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	<p><b>C. Continued development of hate crime reporting processes to ensure asylum seekers and refugees have the confidence to report issues.</b></p>			<p>and local authority staff.</p> <p>The Council have been working closely with the RAS co-ordinator from Cleveland Police and the hate crime investigation team to increase confidence to report issues of hate crime. The partnership team have allocated places at Stockton's hate crime group and will be promoting how to report hate crime for RAS community during Refugee week on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June at ARC with a table display staffed by hate crime champions.</p>	1
5.	<p><b>That information-sharing between agencies is strengthened to ensure joined-up processes, including:</b></p> <p><b>a. notifications from local delivery partners of Home Office decisions (for leave to remain, discontinued, fled, deported), communicated via G4S and/or their contracted accommodation partner, be shared with Housing and Education teams as soon as possible to</b></p>	NEMP	October 2018	<p>Improved communication between contract provider and Local Authority is now in place. Property procurement information is provided to local authorities for authorisation/consultation along with weekly 'move in, move out' information. Key information on asylum numbers, trends and emerging issues is also provided to lead officers and members at the</p>	1

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	<p>enable effective planning and provision to be made across all relevant partners.</p> <p>b. the establishment of a clear protocol for asylum seeker children school admission, with key information provided to the Admissions Team and schools for the purposes of a robust induction, should form part of the planning for new contracts post-2019.</p>			<p>quarterly meetings.</p> <p>Future representation from the Home Office and contract provider at local migration operational meetings has also been agreed.</p>	
6.	<p>That there is a need for additional opportunities for asylum seekers to access basic/fundamental English language courses or English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes.</p>	Steven Hume	January 2018	<p>Government position states that ESOL support can only be provided when a positive asylum decision has been made on an adult. Additional informal support for asylum seekers awaiting a decision will be explored through the Multi-Agency Meetings with a reliance on support from the VCS. This issue has also been raised as part of the Government's Integrated Strategy Green Paper consultation.</p>	1

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7.	<b>That the Government is encouraged to ensure that, when forming the post-2019 asylum contracts, an approach is taken which would enable aspects of provision, such as support, to be met by local partners. The Local Authority can then explore the feasibility of bidding for elements of the post-2019 asylum contracts once these have been confirmed.</b>	Steven Hume	January 2018	Contracts are out to tender and following consultation it has been established that there is no scope for local authorities to bid for elements of the contract.	1

***Assessment of progress:***

1	Achieved (Fully)
2	On Track but not yet due for completion
3	Slipped
4	Not Achieved