

APPENDIX 3
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	Evidence of Progress Presented to Committee March 2019	Assessment of progress March 2019 Categories 1 - 4
1.	That a clear pathway and information about what asylum seeker services are on offer in Stockton-on-Tees is provided.	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 th of July with public health and Teesside University as guest speakers.	2	The SMP meeting held on the 11 th of July was a good opportunity for partnerships around the table to discuss a number of issues raised (minutes are available on requested information). We now also have a draft A-Z directory for RAS services to take to the take to the next SMP on 4 th of April for sign off. And we have been working very closely with Bill Williams's strategic RAS group in Stockton in developing a strategic action plan for the SMP to be developed and delivered 2019 – 2021.	1

APPENDIX 3
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	Evidence of Progress Presented to Committee March 2019	Assessment of progress March 2019 Categories 1 - 4
2.	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 Government to consider the position on room-sharing of unrelated adults when forming the post-2019 asylum contracts.	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 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.	2	New Asylum contract has been awarded to Mears who will run services from the end of 2019. Transition process is now underway. In relation to Room Sharing Mears have made a commitment that there will be no forced room sharing for the duration of the contract.	1
4.	That there should be closer working with local voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations, including: B Enhanced links with	Satnam Singh	October 2018	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	2	The Regional Refugee Forum (RFF) North East are now delivering training sessions to social workers in partnership with the British Red Cross on the needs of unaccompanied	1

APPENDIX 3
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	Evidence of Progress Presented to Committee March 2019	Assessment of progress March 2019 Categories 1 - 4
	refugee-led community organisations (RCOs) via the Regional Refugee Forum North East to increase understanding of asylum seeker issues/concern			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 and local authority staff.		asylum seeking and refugee children, it covers a wide range of topics including the asylum process, age assessment, trafficking, rights and entitlements and adopting a culturally sensitive approach to support. This training will be excellent for social workers who have not been on any prior training, PAs, support workers, housing providers, foster carers, supported lodgings providers, youth workers, health professionals, and teachers, to assist them with the understanding of issues affecting young refugees in the UK and how to appropriately support them.	

Assessment of progress:

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