

Appendix 3

PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Asylum Seeker Services

SCRUTINY MONITORING – PROGRESS UPDATE	
Review:	Asylum Seeker Services
Link Officer/s:	Steven Hume (Jane Edmends providing update)
Action Plan Agreed:	March 2018 NB: Since this Select Committee review was concluded the Home Officer has recommissioned and awarded a new 'Asylum Seeker Accommodation and Support Contract that commenced September 2019.

Updates on the progress of actions in relation to agreed recommendations from previous scrutiny reviews are required approximately 12 months after the relevant Select Committee has agreed the Action Plan. Progress updates must be detailed, evidencing what has taken place regarding each recommendation – a grade assessing progress should then be given (see end of document for grading explanation). Any evidence on the impact of the actions undertaken should also be recorded for each recommendation.

Recommendation 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.
Responsibility:	Steven Hume
Date:	January 2018
Agreed Action:	Outcome of the Scrutiny review to has been shared with NEMP members and was discussed at the last meeting on 23 rd January 2018. Issue of Committee position on room sharing has been reiterated with Home Office as part of the wider consultation on the new contract. Action: It is suggested that the Chair writes a letter reiterating SBC position along with a copy of the final review. n.b. new contracts are out for tender now.
Agreed Success Measure:	NEMP discuss report Letter send to Home Office
Evidence of Progress (March 2019):	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.
Assessment of Progress (March 2019): (include explanation if required)	1 (Fully Achieved) – This was amended to 2 (On-Track) in March 2019 as 'Members felt this should be amended to 'On-track, but not yet due for

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	completion' as Mears' 'commitment' that there will be no forced room sharing appeared more of an aspiration at present.'
Evidence of Progress (September 2021):	<p>Mears have been the Home Officers commissioned provider of dispersal accommodation in the North East Yorkshire and Humber region since Sept 2019, since the inception of the contract they have <u>not</u> operated a room sharing policy.</p> <p>(NB: Members are however asked to note that the Home Office contract does allow room sharing and whilst Mears have stressed this <i>is not their preferred operating model</i>, as a Home Office contractor they may need to implement should this ever be instigated by the Home Office).</p>
Assessment of Progress (September 2021): (include explanation if required)	(1) Fully achieved – Mears have not operated room sharing
Evidence of Impact (September 2021):	N/A

Assessment of Progress Gradings:	1 Fully Achieved	2 On-Track	3 Slipped	4 Not Achieved
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