

Cabinet



Date of meeting:	10 July 2023
Title of Report:	Commissioning of Resettlement Support Service (formally Refugee Integration and Support Service)
Lead Member:	Councillor Chris Penberthy (Cabinet Member for Housing, Co-operative Development and Communities)
Lead Strategic Director:	Anna Coles (Interim Strategic Director for People)
Author:	Kate Lattimore, Commissioning Officer
Contact Email:	kate.lattimore@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	
Key Decision:	Yes
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

To seek Cabinet approval to commission a Resettlement Support Service (formally a Refugee Integration Service), to support the smooth resettlement and integration of people with refugee status (or similar) into the community of Plymouth. We are seeking a collaboration of providers, or alliance to deliver the service. The service design process has commenced and will continue to be co-produced with providers, commissioners, other stakeholders and people with lived experience.

Recommendations and Reasons

That Cabinet:

- Approve the business case including the proposed procurement process for the resettlement support service to ensure continuity of provision of an integration and resettlement service;
- Delegate to the Strategic Director for People the authority to award contract(s) where they would not already have authority to do so.

Alternative options considered and rejected

An alternative would be to do nothing. This has been rejected as Plymouth is an asylum seeker dispersal area, participates in special resettlement schemes for refugees, and without a specific resettlement service it would be very challenging for refugees to resettle, connect and integrate positively within the community in Plymouth. The majority of the service is funded via external sources.

Ceasing the service would likely increase the demands on other statutory and community based services. Commissioning a new service using a co-design assurance approach enables us to draw on the knowledge and skills of expert and trusted providers and other stakeholders.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

This service will help the Council to keep children, adults and communities safe, focusing on prevention and early intervention, providing quality public services and trusting and engaging our communities.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

The majority of the service is funded by the Home Office, with contributions from NHS Devon ICB and Plymouth City Council. Future service delivery will be linked to the size of the grant contributions from the Home Office and risk assessed for any changes in funding levels. Current funding commitments are in place until 31st March 2028.

Financial Risks

The approximate annual contract value will be £450,000; as above the majority of the funding for this service will be from a Home Office grant that is ring-fenced to be spent specifically on refugee resettlement schemes, so the financial risk to Council is low while this is in place.

There is a risk that if grant funding was reduced or removed then services would need to be provided to vulnerable people and this would increase demand on the Council's statutory services – this will be monitored carefully and any changes in funding allocations escalated appropriately.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

The service provides local support for asylum seekers in Plymouth, reducing the need for them to travel further afield to access services.

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

** When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.*

The commissioning of this service supports marginalised and vulnerable refugee communities to become self-sufficient, independent, able to thrive and be kept safe; it will also help support community cohesion. It will support delivery of the Council's Equalities duty towards minimising discrimination for racialized minorities, taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people.

Appendices

**Add rows as required to box below*

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable)						
		<i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Resettlement Support Service Business Case							
B	Equalities Impact Assessment							

Background papers:

*Add rows as required to box below

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable)						
	If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
N/A							

Sign off:

Fin	DJN. 23.2 4.28	Leg	MS/ 0000 1690	Mon Off		HR	N/A	Asset s	N/A	Strat Proc	SS/SC/025 /BC/0523
Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Emma Crowther, Interim Head of Commissioning											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes											
Date agreed: 17/05/2023											
Cabinet Member approval: Councillor Chris Penberthy (Cabinet Member for Housing, Co-operative Development and Communities)											
Date approved: 30/06/2023											