

Wiltshire Council

Council

17 October 2017

Update on Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme

1. It is now two years since full council passed a motion to participate in the Government's Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation (VPR) Scheme and any other such schemes introduced to support other vulnerable persons seeking refugee status.
2. The VPR scheme prioritises the most vulnerable refugees that are living in countries neighbouring Syria – typically survivors of violence, torture, women and girls at risk and those with urgent medical needs.
3. The first Syrian refugees arrived in Wiltshire in December 2015. Wiltshire was one of the first local authorities to welcome refugees under the scheme and is now home to 87 Syrian refugees (27 family/ or individual group referrals).
4. We are grateful to volunteers, faith and community groups from a number of towns across Wiltshire who have been critical to the successful functioning of the scheme. They have worked with us and our partner agencies to ensure the refugees have everything they need to settle here quickly. The volunteers have been part of the approach to ensure the individuals and families have all they need. Our families are based all over Wiltshire with each family or person having volunteers on hand to support them as they become accustomed to the British way of life or provide informal English lessons.
5. Wiltshire Council is continuing to work closely with public sector partners and the community to ensure homes, school places and all necessary support is in place for when refugees arrive in the county. We continue to coordinate support for arrivals with the NHS, DWP and other partners (such as Wiltshire College for English lessons) as well as council services for education, housing, skills and social care.
6. Some of the Syrian refugees in the county have been reunited with other members of their family. We have worked closely with the Home Office to achieve this. Each of the families that have been reunited with relatives in Wiltshire has been eligible in their own right for the Vulnerable Persons Relocation scheme (that is, they fall into the most vulnerable category of refugees).
7. Our families who have been here for some time are already integrating with their communities and volunteering (including with the fire and rescue service) and gaining work experience and employment. Some already have a professional background or qualification and those who have arrived in Wiltshire already have shown a strong desire to integrate and have been incredibly grateful for the

opportunity for a safe new home. Several have gained their UK driving licence and purchased cars and other families have had children during their time here.

8. The numbers of Syrian refugees we can accommodate in future will be determined by the availability of suitable accommodation. If you know of someone willing to explore renting their house or flat to a Syrian refugee, please contact the housing options team on 01225 718005 or homeless@wiltshire.gov.uk. We are looking for self contained properties, with their own entrance, that are available to rent for a minimum of 12 months at Local Housing Allowance rate. The team are happy to talk about wider support that can be given to enable properties to be rented. The properties will be for families or individuals living on their own. We work with Wiltshire Community Foundation and volunteers who can help with cleaning and overseeing the properties, including furnishing and decorating properties and providing welcome packs.
9. Support is in place for each family, including interpreters and an appointed support worker to help the families settle in and become integrated. We also check capacity at local GP surgeries and schools to ensure they are able to meet local needs. All refugees are able to work in the UK and are supported to learn English (when not already fluent).
10. Funding for the refugee programme comes through the UK Government's International Aid budget and this covers all the costs - including furnishing the homes and ensuring refugees have the key essentials to help them start their life here.
11. The Government have said they are on target to meet their ambition of resettling 20,000 refugees by 2020 - but this relies on the pledges that councils have made being realised and current progress being maintained.
12. The number of refugees settled by local authority so far (as at June 2017) under the VPR scheme is shown in Appendix 1. Wiltshire compares well with councils elsewhere – those above the council in the table tend to be urban areas with experience of other migration schemes or areas with greater availability of low cost accommodation.
13. We are very grateful to public sector partners, the voluntary and community sector, our staff, individual volunteers and for the support of councillors for this scheme over the past two years.

Carolyn Godfrey
Corporate Director

Appendix 1

Table 20_q: Refugees (and others) resettled under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement scheme, including dependants, by local authority

Q2 June 2017

Region	Local Authority	Numbers resettled
West Midlands	Coventry	223
North East	Gateshead	203
Northern Ireland	Belfast	201
Scotland	Glasgow	163
Yorkshire and The Humber	Leeds	160
Yorkshire and The Humber	Bradford	153
Scotland	Edinburgh	153
Yorkshire and The Humber	Sheffield	149
Northern Ireland	Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon	142
West Midlands	Birmingham	136
Scotland	North Lanarkshire	133
North East	Newcastle upon Tyne	127
Scotland	Renfrewshire	107
Scotland	Aberdeenshire	94
Scotland	South Lanarkshire	93
Scotland	Argyll and Bute	92
East Midlands	Leicester	88
North East	County Durham	87
Scotland	West Dunbartonshire	85
Scotland	Dundee	82
East Midlands	Nottingham	82
Yorkshire and The Humber	Kirklees	81
South West	Wiltshire	81
Scotland	Clackmannanshire	78
North East	Hartlepool	77
Northern Ireland	Lisburn and Castlereagh	77
Scotland	Aberdeen	75
South West	Bristol	75
London	Camden	75
Scotland	Fife	72
Scotland	North Ayrshire	72
Wales	Swansea	71
Wales	Carmarthenshire	66
Wales	Powys	66
South East	Oxford	64
West Midlands	Shropshire	63
North West	Liverpool	61
West Midlands	Herefordshire	60
South East	Ashford	59
North East	Redcar and Cleveland	58
North West	Blackpool	56
London	Newham	55
Yorkshire and The Humber	East Riding of Yorkshire	54
Yorkshire and The Humber	Harrogate	54
East of England	Ipswich	53
Wales	Neath Port Talbot	52
South East	Woking	52
North West	Halton	51

Northern Ireland	Newry, Mourne and Down	51
London	Barnet	50
East of England	Colchester	50
East of England	Cambridge	49
Yorkshire and The Humber	Calderdale	47
Northern Ireland	Derry and Strabane	47
North West	Wirral	47
Scotland	Highland	46
Scotland	West Lothian	46
North East	Darlington	45
Scotland	Inverclyde	42
London	Lambeth	42
South East	Milton Keynes	42
North East	Northumberland	42
South West	Gloucester	41
North West	St. Helens	41
South West	Cornwall	40
Scotland	East Renfrewshire	40
North West	Knowsley	40
Northern Ireland	North Down and Ards	40
South West	Plymouth	40
Yorkshire and The Humber	Wakefield	40
Yorkshire and The Humber	Kingston upon Hull	39
North West	Pendle	38
Yorkshire and The Humber	York	38
North East	North Tyneside	37
Yorkshire and The Humber	Scarborough	36
North West	Sefton	36
East of England	Peterborough	34
Wales	Rhondda Cynon Taf	34
Scotland	Angus	33
Scotland	East Lothian	33
Wales	Cardiff	32
Scotland	Perth and Kinross	32
London	Islington	31
Wales	Wrexham	31
South West	Bath and North East Somerset	30
North West	Cheshire West and Chester	30
Yorkshire and The Humber	Craven	30
Scotland	South Ayrshire	30
South East	Tunbridge Wells	30
East Midlands	Newark and Sherwood	29
East of England	St. Albans	29
South East	Brighton and Hove	28
Scotland	Falkirk	28
East Midlands	Mansfield	28
South East	West Oxfordshire	28
North West	Cheshire East	27
Yorkshire and The Humber	Selby	27
Scotland	Eilean Siar	26
East Midlands	Gedling	26
South West	South Somerset	26
South East	Winchester	26
East of England	Bedford	25
Scotland	East Ayrshire	25
South East	Vale of White Horse	25
South East	Guildford	24
Wales	Monmouthshire	24

East of England	Norwich	24
West Midlands	Solihull	24
South West	South Gloucestershire	24
Wales	Bridgend	23
North West	Carlisle	23
East of England	Central Bedfordshire	23
Wales	Ceredigion	23
Scotland	Midlothian	23
North West	South Ribble	23
South East	Lewes	22
Yorkshire and The Humber	North Lincolnshire	22
North West	Preston	22
West Midlands	Stafford	22
Scotland	East Dunbartonshire	21
Scotland	Scottish Borders	21
Wales	Gwynedd	20
West Midlands	Stoke-on-Trent	20
South West	Torbay	20
West Midlands	Walsall	20
Yorkshire and The Humber	Doncaster	19
London	Hackney	19
Scotland	Moray	19
West Midlands	Newcastle-under-Lyme	19
West Midlands	Telford and Wrekin	19
West Midlands	Wolverhampton	19
East Midlands	Chesterfield	18
West Midlands	Dudley	18
Scotland	Dumfries and Galloway	18
South East	Reading	18
South West	Stroud	18
Wales	The Vale of Glamorgan	18
Wales	Caerphilly	17
London	Lewisham	17
West Midlands	Redditch	17
Scotland	Stirling	17
South West	Taunton Deane	17
West Midlands	Wyre Forest	17
East Midlands	Broxtowe	16
South West	Cheltenham	16
South West	Cotswold	16
East of England	Dacorum	16
East of England	Stevenage	16
West Midlands	Warwick	16
West Midlands	Worcester	16
South East	Hastings	15
South East	Mole Valley	15
Wales	Newport	15
South East	Shepway	15
South East	Swale	15
Wales	Torfaen	15
East Midlands	Derbyshire Dales	14
South West	North Somerset	14
West Midlands	Nuneaton and Bedworth	14
Yorkshire and The Humber	Rotherham	14
East of England	East Hertfordshire	13
South West	Exeter	13
London	Kingston upon Thames	13
Yorkshire and The Humber	North East Lincolnshire	13

South West	South Hams	13
South East	West Berkshire	13
South East	Windsor and Maidenhead	13
East Midlands	Ashfield	12
South East	East Hampshire	12
Wales	Pembrokeshire	12
London	Richmond upon Thames	12
South East	Southampton	12
South West	Mendip	11
South East	Reigate and Banstead	11
East Midlands	Rushcliffe	11
Yorkshire and The Humber	Ryedale	11
South East	Sevenoaks	11
West Midlands	Stratford-on-Avon	11
East of England	Watford	11
South East	Wokingham	11
South East	Adur	10
Wales	Blaenau Gwent	10
West Midlands	Cannock Chase	10
East Midlands	Charnwood	10
Wales	Denbighshire	10
South East	Dover	10
East of England	Epping Forest	10
Wales	Flintshire	10
East Midlands	North West Leicestershire	10
North West	Tameside	10
East of England	Three Rivers	10
South East	Bracknell Forest	9
South East	Crawley	9
South West	East Devon	9
North West	Eden	9
East Midlands	Melton	9
East of England	Mid Suffolk	9
East of England	North Hertfordshire	9
East of England	Southend-on-Sea	9
South West	Teignbridge	9
North West	Warrington	9
South West	Weymouth and Portland	9
East Midlands	High Peak	8
South East	Horsham	8
Wales	Isle of Anglesey	8
Wales	Merthyr Tydfil	8
Scotland	Orkney Islands	8
South West	Poole	8
West Midlands	Rugby	8
East Midlands	South Derbyshire	8
South East	Wealden	8
South East	Canterbury	7
South East	Chichester	7
London	City of London	7
South East	Dartford	7
South East	Fareham	7
South East	Mid Sussex	7
London	Hammersmith and Fulham	6
East of England	Harlow	6
East of England	Maldon	6
South East	Runnymede	6
East of England	Uttlesford	6

South East	Waverley	6
London	Merton	5
South East	New Forest	5
South East	Portsmouth	5
South East	Slough	5
East of England	Tendring	5
South West	Tewkesbury	5
South East	Tonbridge and Malling	5
North West	Trafford	5
East of England	Welwyn Hatfield	5
South East	Basingstoke and Deane	4
East Midlands	Blaby	4
South West	Bournemouth	4
London	Brent	4
South East	Eastbourne	4
South West	Forest of Dean	4
London	Haringey	4
East of England	Hertsmere	4
East Midlands	Rutland	4
South West	West Dorset	4
Wales	Conwy	3
South East	Isle of Wight	3
London	Kensington and Chelsea	3
South East	Test Valley	3
London	Wandsworth	3
South West	West Devon	3
South East	Eastleigh	2
West Midlands	North Warwickshire	2
London	Ealing	1
East Midlands	Northampton	1
	140 Other Councils	0
Scotland	*Total Scotland	1807
Yorkshire and The Humber	*Total Yorkshire and The Humber	997
West Midlands	*Total West Midlands	754
South East	*Total South East	698
North East	*Total North East	676
Wales	*Total Wales	568
Northern Ireland	*Total Northern Ireland	558
South West	*Total South West	550
North West	*Total North West	528
East of England	*Total East of England	422
East Midlands	*Total East Midlands	378
London	*Total London	347
*Total	*Total	8283

Government Quarterly Immigration Statistics, Table 20q:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-april-to-june-2017/list-of-tables>