

Appendix 3: CYPS Response to Scrutiny Review Recommendations on Support to Children from Refugee Families

Recommendation & Action	Lead & others to be involved	Timescale	Agreed Partially/ Agreed / Not Agreed	Comments
1. That the council will request to formally appoint a Member to act as a Trustee to the Haringey Migrant Support Centre			Agreed	The Council's Democratic Services Team will be asked to take this forward
2. That as part of the future work plan for Overview and Scrutiny that panel receives updates on progress with implementing and improvements identified as required by the practice audit that was undertaken on the work of the NRPF team and the relevant voluntary sector organisations be requested to provide feedback as part of the process	Assistant Director Social Care	Date for progress report as part of Overview and Scrutiny work plan to be confirmed.	Agreed	The service will provide high level feedback on progress against the requirements of the practice audit. Voluntary sector organisations will be contacted for their views as part of the progress report.
3. That subsistence levels for NRPF families are reviewed so that they are based on a clear and justifiable rationale and comply with levels that relevant advice suggests appropriate	Assistant Director, Social Care	August 2018	Agreed	A review of the NRPF service is underway and includes a review of the budget and financial arrangements.

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4. That, where there are disputes with other local authorities on responsibility for the support of specific families with NRPF, addressing and meeting their needs be prioritised and dealt with before such issues are addressed	Assistant Director, Social Care	Ongoing	Agreed	Each case will be assessed on its own merits. Where immediate support is assessed as required this will be provided in line with our duties.
5. That a report be made to a future meeting of the Panel on how families with NRPF are assisted in accessing good quality immigration advice so that they are better able to resolve their status quickly	Assistant Director, Social Care	Date for progress report as part of Overview and Scrutiny work plan to be confirmed.	Agreed	Report will be completed as requested.
6. That action be taken to improve the information available from front facing services on sources of support and advice for NRPF families	Assistant Director, Social Care	July 2018	Agreed	Quarterly meetings with NELMA and Project 17 are in place to continually discuss issues arising for families including the information provided to families to be sure that it is always up to date. The first meeting took place in April 2018

<p>7. That, in order to provide a stronger focus on resolving the immigration status of families, specific consideration be given to splitting responsibility for the support of NRPF families between a small team to address issues relating specifically to NRPF and mainstream social care services</p>	<p>Director, Children's Service, and Assistant Director, Safeguarding</p>		<p>Partially agreed</p>	<p>The structure of the team is currently able to deliver the required service to children and families. However, the service will always consider ideas and best practice from elsewhere for consideration for service improvement. Service delivery has improved since the initial audit reported to Overview and Scrutiny in March 2018.</p>
<p>8. That the Panel be informed of whether an application has been made for Controlling Migration funding and, if not, consideration be given to rectifying this</p>	<p>Assistant Director, Safeguarding</p>	<p>Update Sept. 2018</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>The Council have received an allocation of the fund in respect of UASC for 2018/19. A further bid will be made in Summer 2018.</p>
<p>9. That the Children and Young People's Service establish a system to collect information on the refugee status of children applying for school places where this is known for sharing with schools so they are able to make the necessary plans for support in advance of the arrival of children at school</p>	<p>AD Safeguarding and AD Schools and Learning</p>	<p>ongoing</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>Currently the School Admissions Service already collects information about whether a child has refugee status on the in-year form. This is in order to assess whether a child qualifies under the In-Year Fair Access Protocol. Aside from qualification under this protocol, the School Admissions Code applies.</p>

<p>10. That social care staff supporting children from refugee families be made aware of the importance of including the refugee status of children applying for school places on school admissions application forms</p>	<p>Social care colleagues under the direction of the Assistant Director Safeguarding and the Joint Assistant Director for Schools and Learning</p>	<p>Update Sept 2018</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>The in-year school application form does include two places where the refugee status of the child can be noted - one of which is an explicit question asking whether the child is a refugee or asylum seeker. The form, where appropriate, is completed by social care officers.</p>
<p>11. That clarification be provided to schools regarding the extent of their responsibilities for sharing information on the immigration status of individual children</p>	<p>Joint Assistant Director, Schools and Learning</p>	<p>From Sept. 2018</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>It it is already a standard requirement for state schools to pass on information about a child, including safeguarding, SEN, behaviour and educational attainment information, to any subsequent schools which the child attends. However information can only be shared between schools in line with the GDPR. Schools will be reminded of this.</p>
<p>12. Networked Learning Communities to establish the feasibility of establishing English language classes for the parents/carers of children from refugee children</p>	<p>Head of School Standards, thereafter AD Schools and Learning</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>Some schools already provide language classes for parents and the extent of this provision is being reviewed and schools will be asked for a view.</p>

13. That the Children and Young People's Service be requested to work with accommodation providers to establish greater clarity for families with school age children on the length of time that they are likely to remain in temporary accommodation so that they are better able to maintain school places	Assistant Director, Safeguarding	Ongoing	Partially agreed	Due to the nature of the private housing market, families will be given as much information as possible about the duration of their accommodation, and as much notice as possible if a move is required. Moves will be managed so that, wherever possible, children remain at the same school. Homes for Haringey will be approach to establish secure routes for temporary housing for NRPF families.
14. That schools be reminded of the availability of training for staff by CAMHS on mental health issues, including trauma	Joint Assistant Director of Schools and Learning to liaise with CAMHS	Summer term 2018 and ongoing	Agreed	Joint Assistant Director of Schools and Learning to liaise with CAMHS to ascertain training offer and write to all schools signposting to it
15. That consideration be given to extending access to support from the Virtual School to children from NRPF	Head of Virtual School	NA	Not agreed	Consideration to be given to extending access for this group of children. In addition, Haringey schools will be made aware of this group of vulnerable children and their needs.
16. That training be offered to schools on the provision of support for children from refugee families including issues relating to immigration status and external sources of support	Joint Assistant Director of Schools and Learning	Update for September 2018	Partially	Joint Assistant Director of Schools and Learning to establish if and how such support will be offered and whether there is a cost to this.