

## **Briefing for Spending Review funding for Syrian Refugee Resettlement - Frequently asked Questions**

### **Syrian Refugee Resettlement Programme team**

#### **Q: How was the year 2-5 funding calculated?**

- The Home Office and Department for Communities worked with councils who have significant experience of resettling refugees as well as authorities advanced in their thinking on taking placements. They provided estimates for the costs of the scheme in years 2-5.
- The funding is based on responses from local authorities who estimated costs.
- Local authorities will receive £12,000 per person overall; tapering from £5,000 in year 2 to £3,700 in year 3, to £2,300k in year 4 and £1,000k in year 5. (See appendix 1 below)
- There will also be support for education and health in years 2-5, which will be funded separately to the local authority tariff.

#### **Q: Why does the funding decrease over time?**

- Funding provision is based on evidence from local authorities who have significant experience of resettling refugees as well as authorities advanced in their thinking on taking placements.
- The information provided showed the level of support required by vulnerable refugees will decrease over time as they settle into life in the UK, their health improves and they become integrated into society and move into work.

#### **Q: Is £129m enough to support 20,000 refugees?**

- Funding provision is based on evidence from local authorities who have significant experience of resettling refugees.
- This is a substantial level of funding to assist with costs over years 2-5 of the scheme (during this SR period).
- This is on top of the first 12 months of a refugee's resettlement costs, which are funded by central government using the Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) budget.

#### **Q: How can the year 2-5 funding be used?**

- The grant to local authorities will not be ringfenced and can be used by local authorities to provide support for refugees. This can include, for example, support for integration such as additional English language training as well as social care.
- Funding payments (per individual refugee) can be pooled and managed across all the refugees a Local Authority takes in.
- Local authorities will also be able to apply for additional funding through an “extreme cases” fund.

#### **Q: What can the extreme cases fund cover?**

- Government will work with local authorities and the devolved administrations via the Local Government Associations to finalise specific criteria of the extreme cases fund.

However government expects it will primarily cover additional social care costs, for instance individuals with complex needs.

**Q: What is the payment mechanism for funding?**

- Government will work with the LGA, local authorities and devolved administrations to agree the payment mechanism. The LGA will update you as this work develops

**Q: Will Devolved Administrations receive the same level of funding as English local authorities?**

- Yes.

**Q: Can local authorities work together to provide support to Syrian refugees?**

- Yes. Local authorities are already working together to provide support, ensure best value in the services they provide and to deliver efficiencies.
- Government will continue to provide local authorities with support and guidance including sharing resettlement best practice and case studies, detailed information on the cohort from UNHCR and advice about the cultural, ethnic and religious groupings from Syria.

**Q: How can local authorities input into the ongoing design of the resettlement scheme?**

- The Government will continue to work closely with local authorities and others as we look to expand the scheme further.

**Q: My authority wants to find out more about taking refugees who should we contact?**

- Contact your local Strategic Migration Partnership. See [www.local.gov.uk/refugees](http://www.local.gov.uk/refugees) for their contact details.
- Or contact central government's Syrian Refugee Resettlement team on [ResettlementGoldCommand@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ResettlementGoldCommand@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk). This is joint unit between Home Office, DfID and Department for Communities

## **Appendix One: Breakdown of local authority funding for Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement scheme**

### **Year 1 funding**

Year 1 funding is available from the Overseas Development Aid budget to fund costs of Syrian refugees on a per person tariff basis. The year 1 tariff is £8,520 for direct local authority costs. There is also additional support for educational and medical needs. In addition, the refugee will be able to access welfare benefit payments (subject to the statutory limit) and other public services.

### **Year 2-5 funding**

Year 2-5 funding for costs borne by a local authority are also calculated on a per person tariff. It will be paid to local authorities as an unringfenced grant to assist with costs incurred supporting refugees. It will be for the local authority to determine the best use of the funds to support the placements in their area. The type of services it will fund can include for example, integration support such as additional English language training and social care.

Existing funding mechanism will be used to providing funding for schools and health services required by placements.

Funding is broken down as follows:

Year 2 tariff is £5,000

Year 3 tariff is £3,700

Year 4 tariff is £2,300

Year 5 tariff is £1,000

The extreme cases fund is worth 15% of the overall tariff costs each year. Across 2016/17 to 2019/20 we estimate that the extreme cases fund will be worth £16.5m

### **Payment mechanism**

We will work with local authorities to agree payment mechanisms as well as details on how the extreme cases fund will be determined.