

REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND INTEGRATION TO THE MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY, 16 NOVEMBER 2016

I would like to extend my thanks to those members who attended last week's My Life A Full Life briefing and for the hugely valuable feedback from attendees. All comments will be considered carefully as we progress this vitally important system-wide transformation.

I am delighted to report, following my paper to Executive in September of this year, that a substantial amount of work has been undertaken to develop the necessary arrangements to enable the Island to be in a position to make an offer to the Home Office for the resettlement of five Syrian families. These are people who are amongst the most vulnerable victims of the conflict in Syria and who reside in refugee camps bordering Syria. Resettlement programmes work best where there is good local community support available to welcome and sustain arrivals through offers of learning and work, gifts of household items and practical help to assist with integration into British life - so we need to be confident that we are ready to receive them, in order to offer them the best possible start to life in England. Some funding from the resettlement programme will be utilised to facilitate the appointment of a caseworker to work alongside families during their first few months, following arrival. Consideration is being given as to how this can be best delivered.

I have been overwhelmed by the generosity, enthusiasm and willingness of so many volunteers that have come forward with offers of such help and assistance to enable us to be in a position to make an offer. A task and finish group has been established which now meets on a fortnightly basis to co-ordinate the work that needs to be done. A key dependency of course for being in a position to make an offer, is to source suitable housing. Again, I am confident that this can be delivered and a number of offers have already been received. Assessments will be undertaken shortly to establish their suitability.

The Home Office have a programme of scheduled flights transporting families to this country, but need to work quite some time ahead in sorting the flight arrangements for families. This means that we will aim to be in a position to receive families in February 2017. I am comfortable in the knowledge that with the preparation undertaken thus far, we will be in a position to make good our intention to offer resettlement to a minimum of five families.

Councillor Steve Stubbings
Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Integration