

Funding for the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme

Purpose

For information.

Summary

This report updates on the funding for the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme.

Recommendation

That the LGA Leadership Board notes the update for information.

Action

As directed by members.

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1. The Chancellor announced that over £460 million of the overseas aid budget will be used by 2019-20 across the statutory sector to assist with first year costs of resettling up to 20,000 of the most vulnerable Syrian refugees. Government will provide around a further £130 million by 2019-20 to local authorities to contribute to the costs of supporting refugees up to their fifth year.
2. The Minister, Richard Harrington, has written to all local authorities confirming this announcement. His letter confirmed that year two to five funding will be allocated on a tariff basis over four years, tapering from £5,000 per person in year two to £1,000 per person in year five. This funding should assist with local authority costs of support for integration and social care but exactly how the grant should be spent is likely to be a matter for local discretion. Government also announced a 'special cases fund' to provide additional funding for support for the most vulnerable people.
3. Frequently asked questions on the funding arrangements will be available shortly, with more detail on how the tariff will work across the five years of the scheme. Government also will work with the LGA and local authorities to agree more detail, including payment mechanisms, how the funding will work in areas with high housing costs, and how the proposed 'extreme cases' fund will be operated.
4. Local authorities may need to monitor actual costs to be confident that the scheme is adequately funded and the LGA is calling on Government to review costings after 18 months, further to the commitment in the Minister's letter to keep funding under review.
5. The first phase of the expansion of the existing resettlement scheme focused on the Prime Minister's commitment to resettle 1000 refugees by the end of the year. We know many local authorities remain keen to contribute and we are continuing to work with Government, Regional Strategic Migration Partnerships and Solace on how the detailed arrangements for the next phase will work, building on existing regional arrangements and local leadership. We will keep our [webpage](#) updated as more detail becomes available.