

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

SCREENING DOCUMENT

Name of Proposal

Resettlement Activity

Lead Department/Service

Children, Families and Justice

What is the aim of the proposal?

To continue to participate in existing resettlement schemes for refugees under existing agreements and commit to supporting the development of such a strategy to enable us to better consider individual applications for resettlement in the future.

Is this a new or a review of an existing policy, procedure, function or report?

Existing

Screening Process

1. Has the proposal already been assessed for its impact on age; disability; gender; gender re-assignment; pregnancy/maternity; marriage and civil partnership; race; religion and belief; and sexual orientation? **If yes, go to 1 a. If no, go to 1 b.**

1 a. Unless there have been significant changes, no further action is required. **Please add your name, position and date below at 3.**

1 b. Does the proposal involve or have consequences for the people the council serves or employs? **If yes, go to 2. If no, go to 1 c.**

1 c. Please state why not

The proposal is not relevant and no further action is required. Sign and date below at 3.

2. Is the proposal relevant to one or more of the protected characteristics? **If yes, go to 2 a. If no, go to 2 b.**

2 a. **Proceed to Step 1 of the Full Equality Impact Assessment on page 2.**

2 b. Please state why not

The proposal not relevant and no further action is required. Add your name, position and date below at 3.

3. Name:

Position:

Date:

FULL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Step 1

Are there any statutory legal requirements affecting this proposal? If so please describe.

In the context of unaccompanied children, the statutory duties which Scottish local authorities have in relation to children who are looked after applies up to and including the age of 25; it remains unclear if refugee children are to be considered 'looked after children' and whether any placements with volunteers require to comply with current regulations and legislation regarding the accommodation of looked after children.

In terms of Housing, once refugees have been formally accepted as part of resettlement schemes, there is a legislative duty to provide accommodation, either temporary or permanent.

The National Transfer Scheme remains voluntary for local authorities however there are powers within the Immigration Act 2016 that could be used to compel local authorities to become involved.

Step 2

What data/research is available to assess the likely impact of the proposal?

Data on current levels of participation in the schemes has been used to inform this assessment. Since 2015, over 40 refugees have been resettled in Angus (with an additional four babies born here after families settling), from several countries including Syria, Iraq and Sudan. A further two individual young people have also been resettled through the UASC scheme.

The Local Housing Strategy identifies a need for additional affordable housing in Angus and provides some review of the Council's participation in resettlement activities. However, figures on housing need and demand do not currently take into account participation in these schemes.

Care placements for looked after children continue to be over subscribed with demand for family based and residential care in local communities outweighing the resources available. Services to support children, young people and adults recover from trauma including counselling and mental health support services need to be available to support people to live healthy and safe lives in local communities.

Step 3

Is there any reason to believe the proposal could affect people differently due to their protected characteristic ie age; disability; gender; gender re-assignment; pregnancy/maternity; marriage and civil partnership; race; religion and belief; and sexual orientation? Please **place a cross** in each box that applies, and give details alongside.

Age	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Includes unaccompanied children _____
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Gender	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Gender Re-assignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Pregnancy/maternity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Individuals may be pregnant or have recently given birth _____
Marriage and civil Partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Race	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Relates to foreign nationals from countries including Syria, Iraq and and Sudan
Religion and belief	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Relates to individuals with different religions, some who may be fleeing religious persecution
Sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

Step 4

Is there evidence to suggest that any part of the proposal could unlawfully discriminate against people? If so,

how?

No

Step 5

Can the proposal be seen to favour one section of the community

Yes No

or deny opportunities to another?

Yes No

If yes, please give details.

There are finite resources available to provide support services and housing in Angus and there is already significant demand on these services. By participating in resettlement activities, there may be reduced opportunities to assist the indigenous population. Given the nature of service provision, it is not possible to identify specific individuals or groups who have not been provided a service however it could include other equality groups including young homeless people, care leavers or those with a disability.

Step 6

Does the proposal advance or restrict equality?

Yes No

If yes, give details

Participation in the schemes, advances equality by supporting refugees who are fleeing conflict or persecution. In some cases, the persons protected characteristic may be the very reason they have left their country of origin.

The unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) scheme aims to assist the most vulnerable young people entering the UK and provide them with a similar level of care, protection and support as 'looked after children' and an opportunity to settle in local communities and receive care, education, health and social opportunities to enable them to maximise their potential. Diversity in local communities can enrich the experience, learning and opportunities of everyone including benefits to social inclusion and the economy.

Step 7

Are there any other actions which could have been taken to enhance equality of opportunity?

If so please state

Step 8

Based on the work you have done, rate the level of relevance being allocated to this proposal.

High Medium Low Unknown

Step 9

If during **Steps 3 - 6** there has been an adverse impact identified, consider whether this can be justified.

Yes No

If yes please give details.

There is a potentially adverse impact on the availability of services for others within the Angus Council area as a result of this Policy. It is not possible to quantify this in relative terms, however it can be assumed that the higher the level of participation in resettlement schemes the greater the impact. However, those being assisted by the scheme are highly vulnerable and therefore there is justification to provide assistance. This should be kept under

review by Service Leaders in order to determine whether this can continue to be justified in the context of the number of individuals the Council is asked to assist. In addition, trends and any agreement on a minimum number of individuals to assist should be taken into account in projecting future need and demand for services.

If no, consider alternative ways of delivering the proposal to minimise negative impact or eliminate unlawful discrimination. Give details of the changes to be made to the proposal.

Step 10

Do you need to carry out a further impact assessment?

Yes No

If yes, what actions do you need to take?

Step 11

Make arrangements to monitor and review the impact assessment.

Step 12

Publish impact assessment.

Where will the Equality Impact Assessment be published?

The EQIA will be published alongside the Committee report relating to continued participation in the Scheme.

Please state your name, position and date, and forward this pro forma either to your designated Equality Impact Assessment Co-ordinator, or if it refers to a committee report, it should be forwarded with the report to committee services.

Name: Catherine Johnson/Kirsty Lee

**Position: Manager Housing Strategy/Service
Leader Child Protection and Review**

Date: 02/09/2020

For additional information and advice please contact:
the Equalities Officer - Tel: 01307 476058 or E-mail: Equalities@angus.gov.uk