



Harrow Strategic Partnership Board

Wednesday 16 June 2005

Multi-agency Strategy for the Development of Services to Refugees and Asylum-seekers

Purpose of Report

This report presents a proposed Multi-agency Strategy for the Development of Services to Refugees and Asylum-seekers, and invites the Board to formally adopt the Strategy.

The HSP Board is requested to note:

1. That Harrow Council Cabinet at its meeting on 17th March 2005 agreed to approve the Strategy and to support its presentation for formal adoption by the Harrow Strategic Partnership.
2. That the Strategy has been developed in partnership with the Harrow Refugee Forum; and on the basis of extensive consultation with local refugees and asylum-seekers, with local Refugee Community Organisations, and with a full range of local statutory and independent sector agencies.
3. All the main statutory and voluntary sector partners who responded to the final round of (formal) consultation signalled their support for and willingness to sign up to the Strategy.

The HSP Board is requested to agree that:

1. The Strategy be formally adopted.
2. That the multi-agency strategic planning group proposed within the Strategy be formally constituted as a Delivery Group within the Partnership framework, reporting to the 'Regenerating Harrow' Management Group.

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1. Brief History

A cross-departmental project group of Council officers has been working for some time in partnership with the Harrow Refugee Forum, and in close association with staff from other key agencies, to develop a draft multi-agency strategy for the development of services to refugees and asylum-seekers in the Borough.

The aim has been to develop an agreed framework through which to improve the strategic co-ordination of services and the planning of their future development under enhanced partnership working; to make more effective use of currently committed resources; to better match local services with identified local needs; and to support further capacity-building for local refugee organisations.

2. Options considered

The proposed Strategy identifies the main strategic issues affecting the future development of services for these groups, and evaluates various options for progressing those.

The Strategy, as revised following formal consultation, now reflects a broad consensus view about those options, taking account of the need to build an approach which takes account of the impact of current resource constraints.

3. Consultation

The revised Strategy has been developed on the basis of extensive consultation with a broad range of local stakeholders which has taken the form of:

- a project group managed in partnership with the Harrow Refugee Forum;
- informal discussions with a number of representatives of local service providers, and with the local Refugee Practitioners Group;
- one major public consultation event held directly with local refugees and asylum-seekers, and local Refugee Community Organisations (attended by over 200 people);
- one consultation meeting held with a broader group of local stakeholders / interest groups
- a presentation to the Community Consultative Forum;
- a final round of formal consultation on the Final Consultation Draft version of the Strategy (concluded earlier this year).

4. The Strategy

The proposed Strategy is attached as Annex 1.

Lorraine O'Reilly
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Harrow Council
June 2005