

Chesterfield Borough Council
Equality Impact Assessment - Full Assessment Form

Service Area: **ALL**

Section: **ALL**

Lead Officer: **Donna Reddish**

Title of the policy, project, service, function or strategy the preliminary EIA is being produced for: **Syrian vulnerable persons resettlement scheme**

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

To provide humanitarian assistance to refugees through the Government's Syrian Vulnerable Person Resettlement Programme.

Who is the policy, project, service, function or strategy going to benefit and how?

Across Derbyshire up to twelve family units will be resettled. Up to six Chesterfield Borough Council houses have been identified as a potential accommodation contribution to the partnership. However not all locations met the scheme requirement, therefore the number utilised within Chesterfield is likely to be between three and four.

What outcomes do you want to achieve?

The resettlement of up to twelve family units within Derbyshire. An intensive support package will be provided for the first 12 months from arrival with a much lighter programme envisaged after that point. People accepted under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Scheme would have humanitarian protection giving them the right to live in the UK for a period of up to five years.

What barriers exist for both the Council and the groups/people with protected characteristics to enable these outcomes to be achieved?

The programme will need to pay heed to some issues around cohesion and integration. Initial scoping plans have taken into account knowledge of religious facilities, culturally similar groups and level of community support. Community and voluntary sector and faith groups have offered support to the scheme.

For existing communities the programme will need to take into account community anxiety around the influx of new residents. We need to ensure that communications with local communities are comprehensive so that local people understand the facts about this scheme

COLLECTING YOUR INFORMATION

What existing data sources do you have to assess the impact of the policy, project, service, function or strategy?

In order to assess the impact of this programme we have considered a range of sector experience of previous similar scheme and from early adopters of the current scheme. This includes Coventry's experiences of previous resettlement schemes, Derby City's learning from being a designated asylum dispersal area for over 10 years and from the Nottinghamshire Syria scheme partnership.

WHAT'S THE IMPACT?

Is there an impact (positive or negative) on some groups/people with protected characteristics in the community? (think about race, disability, age, gender, religion or belief, sexual orientation and other socially excluded communities or groups). You may also need to think about sub groups within each equalities group or protected characteristics e.g. older women, younger men, disabled women etc.

Please describe the potential impacts both positive and negative and any action we are able to take to reduce negative impacts or enhance the positive impacts.

Group or Protected Characteristic	Positive impacts	Negative impacts	Action
Age – including older people and younger people.	The SVPRS will include children and young people who will obtain greater access to fit for purpose accommodation, healthcare, education and support than previously available to them in refugee camps.	Perceived issues may arise in relation to access to housing, school places, primary care registration including at GPs or dentists, and secondary care waiting lists. These are issues which tend to impact on younger people and older people.	Careful consideration of the numbers Derbyshire is able to facilitate. Locations where GP surgeries, NHS dentists and schools are oversubscribed will be avoided for the scheme.
Disabled people – physical, mental and sensory including learning disabled people and people living with HIV/Aids and cancer.	People with disabilities may be more likely to be put forward for resettlement if less able to have needs met in a refugee camp environment.	Perceived issues may arise in relation to access to adapted/supported housing, primary care registration including at GPs or dentists, and secondary care waiting lists. These are issues which tend to impact on people with long term limiting health conditions and disabilities to a greater extent.	Careful consideration of the numbers Derbyshire is able to facilitate. Locations where GP surgeries, NHS dentists and schools are oversubscribed will be avoided for the scheme. Initial assessment of all participants in the scheme to identify specific needs and the most appropriate locations for resettlement. The partnership will evaluate the forms to predict pressure on services and ensure appropriate planning is in place.
Gender – men, women and	Anyone with gender	No negative impacts identified.	Initial assessment of all

Group or Protected Characteristic	Positive impacts	Negative impacts	Action
transgender.	<p>reassignment may be more likely to be put forward for resettlement due to likely levels of persecution.</p> <p>Women may be more likely to be put forward for resettlement by the UNHCR if less able to have needs met in a refugee camp environment.</p>		<p>participants in the scheme to identify specific needs and the most appropriate locations for resettlement. The partnership will evaluate the forms to predict pressure on services and ensure appropriate planning is in place.</p>
Marital status including civil partnership.	<p>People in an abusive domestic situation may be more likely to be put forward for resettlement.</p>	<p>No negative impacts identified.</p>	<p>Initial assessment of all participants in the scheme to identify specific needs and the most appropriate locations for resettlement. The partnership will evaluate the forms to predict pressure on services and ensure appropriate planning is in place.</p>
Pregnant women and people on maternity/paternity. Also consider breastfeeding mothers.	<p>Pregnant women may be more likely to be put forward for resettlement if less able to have needs met in a refugee camp environment.</p>	<p>Perceived issues may arise in relation to access to adapted/supported housing, primary care registration including at GPs or dentists, and secondary care waiting lists. These are issues which tend to impact on people with long term limiting health</p>	<p>Careful consideration of the numbers Derbyshire is able to facilitate.</p> <p>Locations where GP surgeries, NHS dentists and schools are oversubscribed will be avoided for the scheme.</p>

Group or Protected Characteristic	Positive impacts	Negative impacts	Action
		conditions and disabilities to a greater extent.	Initial assessment of all participants in the scheme to identify specific needs and the most appropriate locations for resettlement. The partnership will evaluate the forms to predict pressure on services and ensure appropriate planning is in place.
Sexual Orientation – Heterosexual, Lesbian, gay men and bi-sexual people.	Anyone with a sexual orientation other than heterosexual may be more likely to be put forward for resettlement due to likely levels of persecution.	No negative impacts identified.	Initial assessment of all participants in the scheme to identify specific needs and the most appropriate locations for resettlement. The partnership will evaluate the forms to predict pressure on services and ensure appropriate planning is in place.
Ethnic Groups	This scheme will directly benefit the Syrian people fleeing war and persecution.	Potential for cohesion and integration challenges.	Development of a supportive service which is attentive to cultural needs and facilitates integration with the local community as well as links to culturally similar groups and organisations. Awareness of any community tensions.

Group or Protected Characteristic	Positive impacts	Negative impacts	Action
			Prevention and early intervention where issues arise
Religions and Beliefs including those with no religion and/or beliefs.	Given characteristics of the background population, people offered resettlement are likely to be Muslim although there are also Christian groups.	Potential for cohesion and integration challenges.	Development of a supportive service which is attentive to cultural needs and facilitates integration with the local community as well as links to culturally similar groups and organisations. Awareness of any community tensions. Prevention and early intervention where issues arise

From the information gathered above does the policy, project, service, function or strategy directly or indirectly discriminate against any particular group or protected characteristic?

- Yes
- No

If yes what action can be taken to stop the discrimination?

RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISION MAKING

How has the EIA helped to shape the policy, project, service, function or strategy or affected the recommendation or decision?

The EIA and partnership activity has helped to shape the size of the scheme and the support services requirements.

How are you going to monitor the policy, project, service, function or strategy, how often and who will be responsible?

The Derbyshire SVPRS partnership will lead on the monitoring of scheme success and respond to emerging issues.