



Dear colleagues,

Chief Executive Group and Home Office Group - asylum dispersal

The Chief Executive and Home Office [Group](#) met again on 8 October, with providers once again in attendance. Co-chaired by the LGA and the Home Office, the Group has agreed to focus on the key areas outlined below, underpinned by a set of principles around joint working:

Data and information

- A draft dataset for the group to monitor progress against the agreed change plan was tabled, including councils who have volunteered to become dispersal areas but have not yet had procurement in them
- Ongoing issues with data which limited councils' understanding of who was being accommodated in their area was flagged. More granular data at a regional and local level was to follow, with data sharing pilots leading to local data sharing protocols

A place based approach to equitable dispersal

- The current dataset demonstrated the right trajectory against the change plan but it was recognised there was further to go
- A series of regional meetings between Home Office, Councils and Providers and a Task & Finish group reporting to Chief Executives had looked at tackling barriers to increasing dispersal and delivery against the change plan
- There was a need for flexibility in current models to achieve dispersal in rural or semi-rural areas, particularly around access to services. Moving into new areas also required the build up of support both in councils and NGOs, access to legal aid and avoiding isolation or unworkable numbers.

Engagement, oversight and influence

- Given importance of credible partnership working and oversight, governance arrangements would continue on from transition, with ongoing issues in some regions to be addressed
- The impacts on increased intake would be managed at a local and regional level. The Group would engage on a national level, bringing together system leaders from three parts of the system together to tackle unresolved, systemic issues
- A process for more effective and advance communications around the use of hotels would be developed, with advice to be sought from councils around what would be best for their communities. Key council contacts to allow for a rapid response would be shared.
- The Group would continue to meet quarterly, reporting to the member-led Asylum Task Group.

Funding

- Work around capturing the impacts of dispersal on councils in advance of any comprehensive spending review were tabled. Funding being a crucial factor for councils in expanding dispersal and the difficulties in accessing additional funding were both acknowledged. Work on evidencing costs and impacts would continue alongside work on the achieving the ambitions within the change plan.

Please contact your SMP or Sally.Burlington@local.gov.uk, Head of Policy at the LGA, if you have any queries or comments.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Lloyd, Chief Executive, LGA and Paul Morrison, Home Office; Co-chairs