

Dear colleagues,

## **Home Office and Local Government Chief Executive Group Asylum accommodation and support**

The Home Office and Local Government Chief Executive [Group](#) met again on 20 June. 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, which focus on improving outcomes for asylum seekers and communities.

- Equity and influence
- Engagement and oversight
- Funding
- Data and information

It was agreed that collective work to operationalise a more equitable approach to dispersal would begin over the summer. This would involve joint work across councils, Home Office and Providers at a national and regional level on year on year change over the life of the current contract:

- a MoU and a Change Plan to be further developed with the principles and process for change, with further discussion at the LGA Task Group on 8 July
- all regions have been asked to identify Councils who have volunteered to become dispersal areas to achieve tangible and rapid progress on and procuring in new areas including those, and further work will look at identifying those areas facing the greatest pressure
- to discuss these SMP Leads and the Home Office will arrange a series of regional meetings between Home Office, Councils and Providers, with Chief Executives' support
- a national change plan Task & Finish group reporting to Chief Executives and involving providers and local and central government would work in between meetings to look at tackling barriers to increasing dispersal and provide oversight of the change plan

There was a recognition of the need to:

- develop an understanding of what was possible within the new contacts of securing properties with a higher market value;
- address barriers around redistribution within and across regions, with a focus on sharing practice;
- resolve issues flagged by regions at the meeting around transition and the end of the process in order not to impact on the wider system and on cohesion locally;
- note the issues caused by pressures from unaccompanied children and the need for a collective response to both;
- undertake further work around capturing the impacts of dispersal on councils in advance of any comprehensive spending review; and
- rapidly progress data sharing at a local and national level.

The next meetings will be held on 8 October. Discussions at a political level will continue via the LGA Asylum, Migration and Refugee Task Group, which will meet with the Minister for Immigration each quarter during the transition period. Please do contact [Sally.Burlington@local.gov.uk](mailto:Sally.Burlington@local.gov.uk), Head of Policy at the LGA, if you have any queries or comments.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Lloyd and Paul Morrison, co-chairs, Home Office & Local Government Chief Executive Group