

21<sup>st</sup> September 2020

Agenda Item: 15

## **REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

### **RESPONSE TO THE HOME OFFICE CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGES TO THE NATIONAL TRANSFER SCHEME FOR UNACCOMPANIED ASYLUM-SEEKING CHILDREN**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To inform Members of the Home Office's consultation on the proposal for changes to the National Transfer Scheme for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children.
2. To approve the general content of the response to the consultation and to authorise the Corporate Director, Children and Families, in consultation with the Chairman of the Children and Young People's Committee, to finalise the detailed drafting of the response prior to submission to the Home Office.

#### **Information**

3. The Home Office has recently written to Local Authority Chief Executives, Council Leaders and Directors of Children's Services to seek their views on potential changes to the operation of the National Transfer Scheme (NTS) for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC). The letter and consultation proposals are available as background papers.
4. The Council has been asked to respond to the consultation by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020 by completing the NTS Consultation Questionnaire Pro-forma for Local Authorities which is attached as **Appendix 1**.
5. A response to the consultation is being drafted and will be circulated to Members of the Committee as soon as possible ahead of the meeting.

#### **Other Options Considered**

6. The Council could choose not to engage with the consultation, however it is felt appropriate to provide feedback on the proposals.

## **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

7. To provide a response to the Home Office consultation on behalf of the County Council.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

8. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## **Financial Implications**

9. There are no financial implications arising from responding to the consultation.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

That the Committee:

- 1) approves the general content of the Council's response to the Home Office's consultation on the proposal for changes to the National Transfer Scheme for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children
- 2) authorises the Corporate Director, Children and Families, in consultation with the Chairman of the Children and Young People's Committee, to finalise the detailed drafting of the consultation response prior to submission to the Home Office.

**Colin Pettigrew**  
**Corporate Director, Children and Families**

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## **Constitutional Comments (EP 11/09/20)**

10. The recommendations fall within the remit of Children and Young People's Committee by virtue of its terms of reference.

## **Financial Comments (SAS 09/09/20)**

11. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

## **Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Ministerial Letter on Consultation with the local government sector on the National Transfer Scheme

Proposals for Changes to the National Transfer Scheme for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children.

## **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

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