

<b>Correspondence Report For Information</b>	<b>23 October 2018</b>
<b>Council Meeting</b>	

<b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)</b>	
<b>Strategic Theme</b>	Leader and Champion
<b>Outcome</b>	Establish key relationships with Government, agencies and potential strategic partners
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Director of Corporate Services
<b>Cost: (If applicable)</b>	Nil

<b>1.</b>	<b>DEPARTMENT FOR FINANCE – Screening in relation to policy document Disposal of Surplus Public Sector property in Northern Ireland</b>
	<p>Please find attached below the screening carried out in relation to an amended policy document entitled Disposal of Surplus Public Sector property in Northern Ireland to be published by Land &amp; Property Services.</p> <p>The outcome was that the policy was screened out.</p> <p>Link to the screening <a href="https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/publications/policy-screening-disposal-public-sector-property">https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/publications/policy-screening-disposal-public-sector-property</a></p>
<b>2.</b>	<b>HSENI CORPORATE PLAN 2018 – 2023</b>
	<p>Following the recent public consultation exercise, the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI) has published its sixth Corporate Plan to cover the period 2018-2023. The document can be viewed on HSENI's website via the following link:</p> <p><a href="https://www.hseni.gov.uk/news/hseni-has-published-its-new-draft-corporate-plan-2018-2023-period">https://www.hseni.gov.uk/news/hseni-has-published-its-new-draft-corporate-plan-2018-2023-period</a></p>
<b>3.</b>	<b>LETTER FROM LORD DUBS</b>
	<p>November marks the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Kindertransport, a British rescue effort that saved 10,000 children from Nazi persecution before World War II.</p> <p>Lord Dubs is one of the 10,000 saved by individuals, communities and councils in the UK. He is calling on the government to honour that legacy by committing to the UK resettlement of 10,000 unaccompanied and vulnerable child refugees from Europe and global conflict regions over 10 years.</p>

	<p>Supported by Safe Passage, an organisation that helps child refugees find safe and legal routes to sanctuary, Lord Dubs has launched 'Our Turn' campaign to secure this commitment from governments.</p> <p>Britain's existing commitments to help child refugees are under threat and the Vulnerable Children Resettlement Scheme (VCRS) is due to expire in 2020.</p> <p>Lord Dubs is asking council to join the Our Turn campaign by publicly pledging to take in unaccompanied and vulnerable children under a future 'Childrens at Risk' scheme. <b>(See attached)</b> This new scheme will expand the current VCRS beyond 2020, incorporating the principles of Section 67 to allow vulnerable unaccompanied children to continue to be resettled from Europe and other regions.</p> <p>Further information on the found at the following website:</p> <p><a href="https://80yearson.org.uk/our-turn/">https://80yearson.org.uk/our-turn/</a></p> <p>Council is asked to consider the request.</p>
4.	<p><b>DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE – Section 75 Screening Land and Property Service HQ</b></p>
	<p>The Department of Finance has advised that the Department has carried out a Section 75 screening in relation to the revised process for handling post received in Land and Property Service HQ and that the policy has been screened out.</p> <p>The screening document is published here <a href="https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/publications/policy-screening-post-handling-land-property-services-lanyon-plaza">https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/publications/policy-screening-post-handling-land-property-services-lanyon-plaza</a></p>

- *An electronic copy of relevant correspondence will be uploaded to Members Portal.*



7 September 2018

Dear Mayor Brenda Chivers,

In November of this year we will mark the start of the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Kindertransport, a British rescue effort that saved 10,000 children from Nazi persecution before World War II.

I was one of the 10,000 'Kinder' children whose lives were saved by individuals, communities and councils in the UK, who stepped forward at a time of great crisis and despite significant opposition. Today, 80 years after the Kindertransport, I am calling on the government to honour that legacy by committing to the UK resettlement of 10,000 unaccompanied and vulnerable child refugees from Europe and global conflict regions over 10 years.

Supported by Safe Passage, an organisation that helps child refugees find safe and legal routes to sanctuary, I have launched the 'Our Turn' campaign to secure this commitment from government. I believe passionately it is our turn to match the Kindertransport efforts that saved 10,000 children, and to establish a permanent protection legacy for child refugees.

On a recent visit to the island of Lesbos, I witnessed the crisis facing child refugees arriving in Europe. In Greece 2,800 children live in camps or on the streets, some in conditions so appalling they have attempted suicide. In Italy 5,000 of 17,000 unaccompanied child arrivals were reported missing in 2017. Over half the 1.2 million refugees who need urgent resettlement globally are children.

Unfortunately, Britain's existing commitments to help child refugees are under threat. The Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) Vulnerable Children Resettlement Scheme (VCRS) are due to expire in 2020 and the government has confirmed it will close the Section 67 after it transfers 480 children from Europe.

We have a decision to make about what Britain's future global role should be. I believe wholeheartedly that we must live up to the legacy of the Kindertransport by committing to resettle 10,000 children, showing leadership when so many countries are closing their doors.

**That's why I am asking your council to join the Our Turn campaign by publicly pledging to take in unaccompanied and vulnerable children under a future 'Children at Risk' scheme.**

This new Children at Risk scheme will expand the current VCRS beyond 2020, incorporating the principles of Section 67 to allow vulnerable unaccompanied children to continue to be resettled from Europe and other regions.

If the new scheme is to be fit for purpose, it requires enough government funding to ensure that councils can support resettled refugees without drawing on children's services budgets.



Local authorities have generally been positive about the amounts provided for accompanied children arriving under VCRS but have made clear that funding for unaccompanied children must be substantially increased.

**I am therefore calling on the government to fund the new Children at Risk scheme to at least the existing rate for accompanied children under VCRS (£25020 over five years) and to increase the amount provided for unaccompanied children (currently up to £114 per day) to ensure local authorities' needs are met.**

A fully funded Children at Risk scheme will match the Kindertransport efforts and resettle 10,000 refugees over the next 10 years if every local authority across the country pledges to take just three children a year.

**To show the government that councils are willing to resettle children, the Our Turn campaign hopes to collect council pledges for at least 1,000 'Children at Risk' places. We have already had 120 places pledged by councils who support the campaign.**

Previously the government has argued that Britain cannot take in any more children under the Section 67 scheme because local authorities refused to offer additional places but from my conversations with councils leaders I know that many of you are willing to do more, if the government provides the funding. By pledging to take refugees under the Children at Risk scheme, you can help us convince the government that our shared belief that we have duties and responsibilities to protect vulnerable child refugees is not a party political issue.

On 15<sup>th</sup> November in London, I will host a national commemoration event for the Kindertransport, celebrating Britain's role in saving 10,000 children and calling for that same leadership today. The commemoration will bring together Kinder and their families, recently arrived child refugees, people who are helping them, and supporters including Nobel laureates and senior public figures. It will be an opportunity for the Our Turn campaign to publicly celebrate the Children at Risk pledges that local authorities have made, and to show the government it must match councils' commitment by funding the scheme.

If Causeway Coast and Glens can offer places for child refugees, I would like to invite you to join me at this very special event. If you believe your council would be willing to make such a pledge or would like to discuss the campaign further please contact me or Rosie Rooney from the Safe Passage team at [rosie.rooney@safepassage.org.uk](mailto:rosie.rooney@safepassage.org.uk). As well as welcoming pledging councils on 15<sup>th</sup> November, we will be publicly celebrating your pledge through our online campaign.

I have attached a briefing document with more information about the proposed future Children at Risk scheme. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours,

Lord Alf Dubs



## The *Our Turn* campaign – 10,000 child refugees resettled over the next 10 years

- Supported by the refugee charity Safe Passage, and led by Lord Alf Dubs, the *Our Turn* campaign is calling for the establishment of a new 'Children at Risk' resettlement scheme to bring 10,000 child refugees to the UK over the next 10 years.
- The scheme should build on and extend the current Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme (VCRS) beyond 2020, with central government providing funding to local authorities that at least equals that allocated under VCRS.
- Critically, the new scheme would be open to vulnerable children in Europe as well as other regions around the world, to reflect the urgent need for protection of many children who arrive in Europe.
- **To secure this ambitious government commitment, the *Our Turn* campaign is asking local authorities to pledge places for children for this future scheme.**

### How can local authorities support the *Our Turn* campaign and help secure a new Children at Risk scheme?

- In the past the Government has suggested that councils are unwilling to offer additional places to children. This was the justification they gave for cutting the numbers of children to be taken in under the Dubs scheme from 3,000 to just 480 places.
- **The reality is that authorities across the country have consistently volunteered to take more child refugees if the government provides adequate funding.**
- For the *Our Turn* campaign to succeed in securing an ambitious commitment to resettle 10,000 children over 10 years, it is essential that the government is sent a clear message that councils are willing to resettle more children, providing adequate support is there.
- Every place that a council pledges will help the *Our Turn* campaign show the government that the willingness to help is there.
- 10,000 children over 10 years equates to just 3 children per local authority per year. However, we are asking councils who can to pledge more than 3 places to ensure enough places are offered. We have already had commitments from councils in cities and rural areas ranging from 20 to 100 places.

### Why is it *Our Turn*?

- **This year is the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the Kindertransport, a rescue operation launched by the UK government and Jewish groups that saved 10,000 child refugees from Nazi Europe. A new commitment to resettle child refugees will continue the UK's proud history of offering sanctuary to vulnerable children.**
- Britain's existing resettlement commitments (the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme and Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme) are due to expire in 2020. The Dubs scheme resettling vulnerable children from within Europe is due to end after 480 children are resettled.
- With the current routes to safety threatened, Britain has an urgent responsibility to live up to the Kindertransport legacy by establishing a new and lasting legal commitment to ensure child refugees can access safe passage.

### What will the new Children at Risk scheme look like?

- UNHCR figures show that across the world, over half a million children need urgent resettlement. In 2017 alone, nearly 32,963 refugee and migrant children arrived in Europe. Over 60% of these were unaccompanied or separated, compared to 34% in 2016<sup>1</sup>.
- The new Children at Risk scheme will extend the current VCRS to incorporate the principles of the Dubs scheme, enabling both unaccompanied and vulnerable children with family to benefit. It would also be available to vulnerable refugee children both within Europe and other regions globally.

<sup>1</sup> <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/63435>

- The scheme will be flexible to meet the changing need from year-to-year. Eligibility will be determined by vulnerability and the best interests of the child rather than location or nationality.
- **The *Our Turn* campaign is calling on central government to fund the scheme to at least the rate of the existing VCRS and Section 67 Schemes** - currently up to £114 per day for unaccompanied children and £25,020 over five years for accompanied children. There is also limited additional funding available via the Controlling Migration Fund and the possibility for councils in England to draw on extra support for healthcare and English language provision<sup>2</sup>.
- The Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration's 2018 report on the VPRS<sup>3</sup> found that local authorities were generally positive about the amount they received to cover the costs of the first year of a VPRS resettlement of accompanied minors (which is the same as that for VCRS). However, in their joint response to the UASC funding review, the ADCS and LGA have made clear that the current rate of funding for unaccompanied minors remains inadequate and requires a significant uplift<sup>4</sup>.
- **The *Our Turn* campaign believes that if the new Children at Risk scheme is to be fit for purpose, the government must take the concerns of local authorities on board and allocate adequate funding for the new Children at Risk scheme.**

### Publicly thanking pledging councils at a Kindertransport Commemoration

- On 15<sup>th</sup> November, 1,000 *Our Turn* supporters, including Kindertransport survivors, child refugees, senior public figures, charities and civil society will come together in a major national event to commemorate the Kindertransport and celebrate the role communities have played in assisting child refugees to reach protection both then and now.
- Local authorities who make pledges will be invited to attend this very special commemoration event, to be publicly thanked for their commitment to helping child refugees today.
- The campaign hopes to announce pledges for at least 1,000 'Children at Risk' places from councils at the commemoration and to call on the government to fund the new scheme.

### Making a Children at Risk pledge

- If you are ready to pledge to help child refugees, the *Our Turn* campaign can add your commitment to our online record of pledging councils – please let us know if you would like us to include photos or a message of support. We can then work with your Press Office to publicise the commitment.
- To discuss the campaign further, please contact Rosie Rooney, Press and Public Affairs Manager [Rosie.rooney@safepassage.org.uk](mailto:Rosie.rooney@safepassage.org.uk) - 07517805753 or Alistair Rooms, Campaigns Organiser on [Alistair.rooms@safepassage.org.uk](mailto:Alistair.rooms@safepassage.org.uk) - 07398504371

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[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/705155/VPRS\\_Final\\_Artwork\\_revised.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/705155/VPRS_Final_Artwork_revised.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> [http://adcs.org.uk/assets/documentation/ADCS\\_LGA\\_Joint\\_response\\_to\\_UASC\\_Funding\\_Review.pdf](http://adcs.org.uk/assets/documentation/ADCS_LGA_Joint_response_to_UASC_Funding_Review.pdf)