Meeting of the CPG on Migration

Date: 4 October 2022

Location: Committee Room 6, with the option to join via Microsoft Teams

MSP attendance:

- Paul Sweeney MSP
- Bob Doris MSP
- Mark Ruskell MSP

Non-MSP attendance:

- Transport Scotland
- Erin, Office of Paul Sweeney MSP
- Lorna, Office of Mark Ruskell MSP
- Maryhill Integration Network
- VOICES Network
- Welsh Refugee Council
- Poverty Alliance
- JustRight Scotland
- Freedom from Torture
- Refugees for Justice
- Community Infosource
- Govan Community Project
- Aileen Harding, Scottish Government
- Friends of Scottish Settlers
- LGBT Health
- Refugee Survival Trust
- Migrants Organise for Rights and Empowerment
- Destitution Action
- Church of Scotland
- Isaias Tsegay
- Lawon Andeniyi
- Una Lees
- Ellen McGeough

Apologies

- UNESCO Chair in Refugee Integration through Languages and the Arts, Professor Alison Phipps
- Traci, Govan Community Project
- Savan, Refugees for Justice

Topics discussed:

- **Pilot of Free Bus Travel for People Seeking Asylum – Wales**

  - Presentation from Andrea Cleaver at Welsh Refugee Council on learnings from the pilot.

- **Campaign - Free Bus Travel for People Seeking Asylum in Scotland**

  - Update on the campaign for free bus travel and lived experience from Simon, ambassador from VOICES Network and Sekou from Maryhill Integration Network Voices.

  - Members with lived experience shared their own experience and outlined the change this could make to their lives.

- **Impact of cost-of-living crisis**

  - Research from Poverty Alliance on the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on women's experience, acute impact on people seeking asylum who have no access to cost-of-living support.

- **Can this be done in Scotland?**

  - JustRight working on a legal briefing on the parameters and confirm it is within the gift of Scottish Ministers.

  - Update from Transport Scotland on what options are being considered, including a pilot in Glasgow.

- Discussion on existing concessionary travel schemes, devolved competence and power of lived experience contributions.