

Meeting of the CPG on Migration/AGM

Date: Tuesday 5 December 2023

Location: Committee Room 2, with the option to join remotely via Microsoft Teams

MSP attendance:

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

Non-MSP attendance:

- Erin, Office of Paul Sweeney MSP
- Sheila Tracher, Office of Foysol Choudhury MSP
- Friends of Scottish Settlers
- Maryhill Integration Network
- General municipal boilermakers and allied trade union GMB
- Safe In Scotland
- UNESCO RILA
- Migrant Help
- Simons Community Scotland
- VOICES Network
- British Red cross
- Govan community Project
- Fair Way Scotland
- Joseph Rowntree Foundation
- Scottish Refugee Council
- Outside the Box
- LGBTQ Health
- King Omeihe- UWS
- Marion Bryes
- Gianluca Palomba
- Positive action housing
- I welcome club.
- Community Info Source
- NHS GGC
- MORE

Apologies:

- Just and peace Scotland

AGM:

- **Election of office bearers:**

Convener: Paul Sweeney MSP (re-elected), Vice Convener: Bob Doris MSP (re-elected), Member: Kaukab Stewart MSP, Secretariat: Maryhill Integration Network (re-elected)

- Reflection on Bus Travel campaign
- Approval of previous meeting minutes
- Update from Paul (MSP) regarding correspondence with Scottish government regarding the Illegal Migration act, correspondence to be circulated to CPG members.

Discussions: Dispersal and Refugee Integration in Scotland

- Nicola Davies (Migrant Help) provided an overview of the services offered by Migrant Help to refugees and asylum seekers as well as information regarding how individuals can report their cases when they are in imminent danger of destitution, where other contact methods can be found, as well as how to obtain KPIs regarding migrant help.
- According to Annika Joy (Simons Community Scotland), the refugee crisis in Glasgow and Edinburgh impacts homelessness. SCS is facing an increasing number of people living in destitution, and its housing system has reached its capacity, and this has become increasingly concerning.
- Geraldine (GMB) also highlighted the need for more housing considering the increasing number of positive decisions received and the insufficient human resources and financial resources to meet these needs. In addition, the GMB is urging the Scottish government to use the same standards for all refugees as was used for Ukrainian refugees.
- Prof. Alison (UNESCO RILA) presented a brief overview of the background to the Scottish refugee integration strategy, called the

'New Scots Strategy'. She also highlighted some of the challenges faced.

- Dr Esa (UNESCO RILA) discussed the research that was conducted by the team on the "New Scots Refugee Integration Delivery Project (NSRIDP)".
- Also, Dr Dan (UNESCO RILA) provided an insight into the research and requested that the research and slide be circulated to members of the CPG.
- Tan (CS graduate) shared her experiences and challenges with the asylum process. Saying that the law is meaningless if it is not followed, and is anyone held responsible for that?'
- Members agreed dispersal and destitution remain a significant challenge and the Scottish government should act. The government should introduce measures to help find alternative housing opportunities.

Actions:

- Attached are copies of Conveners correspondence with Scottish Government regarding Illegal Migration Act.
- University of Glasgow research on the New Scots Integration Strategy here - https://www.gla.ac.uk/media/Media_900243_smxx.pdf
- People can report a case of imminent destitution to Migrant Help by emailing s98@migranthelpuk.org to request a call back or can contact by the other methods listed [here](#). Information regarding Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for Migrant Help can be found [here](#).
- There will be a debate on Tuesday 12 December in Parliament at 2:50pm on the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee [report](#) on Asylum Seekers in Scotland. You can watch the debate [here](#) or request tickets [here](#) or by contacting one of your MSPs.
- MSP members of the group to submit written questions on ESOL strategy. Paul Sweeney has submitted the following questions and

Members should be able to see the responses [here](#) in the coming weeks:

- To ask the Scottish Government what steps it is taking to improve access to English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) classes.
 - To ask the Scottish Government if it will consider introducing an updated ESOL Strategy for Scotland.
 - To ask the Scottish Government what assessment was made of the impact of the revised ESOL Strategy for Scotland in 2015.
- Individual group members may wish to consider submitting Freedom of Information requests regarding Home Office complaints, and there are details on how to do this at the bottom of Home Office [web page](#).