

Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (SVPRS)

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Background to SVPRS

- In late 2015 the Prime Minister pledged to resettle 20,000 Syrian refugees by 2020 under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (SVPRS)
- SVPRS only accepts refugees selected by UNHCR from ‘in-region’ camps and who are cleared by the Home Office following security vetting
- Those accepted onto SVPRS are granted a 5-year ‘Humanitarian Protection’ visa, which entitles them to seek employment and access public funds
- Local Authorities volunteer to accept refugees accepted onto SVPRS and support their resettlement in the UK by arranging accommodation and integration support
- The Home Office & DCLG work with both Regional Migration Partnerships and volunteer Local Authorities to “match” refugees with appropriate LA hosts
- The Government will provide a package of financial support to volunteer Local Authorities to assist with the cost of resettling refugees (tapered over 5 years)

SVPRS to date

PHASE 1

Sept 2015-April 2016



PHASE 2

April 2016-2020

- 1,000 refugees resettled
- Bi-lateral agreements
- LB Islington & LB Camden participation

- 19,000 refugees by 2020
- Regional arrangement via RMPs
- Possible pan-London solution via London Council's/GLA

LBTH Commitment

Mayor Biggs confirmed that LBTH would, amongst other things, pledge to:

- *Make an offer to receive families but we will need to see the details of the Government's offer of support before we can work out exactly how to do this, and how many we might help.*
- *Lobby Government to make sufficient resources available to local authorities to ensure that we can make adequate provision for refugees and asylum seekers without adversely affecting services for our residents. Our offer to refugees would have no effect on scarce resources, such as our limited supply of social housing.*

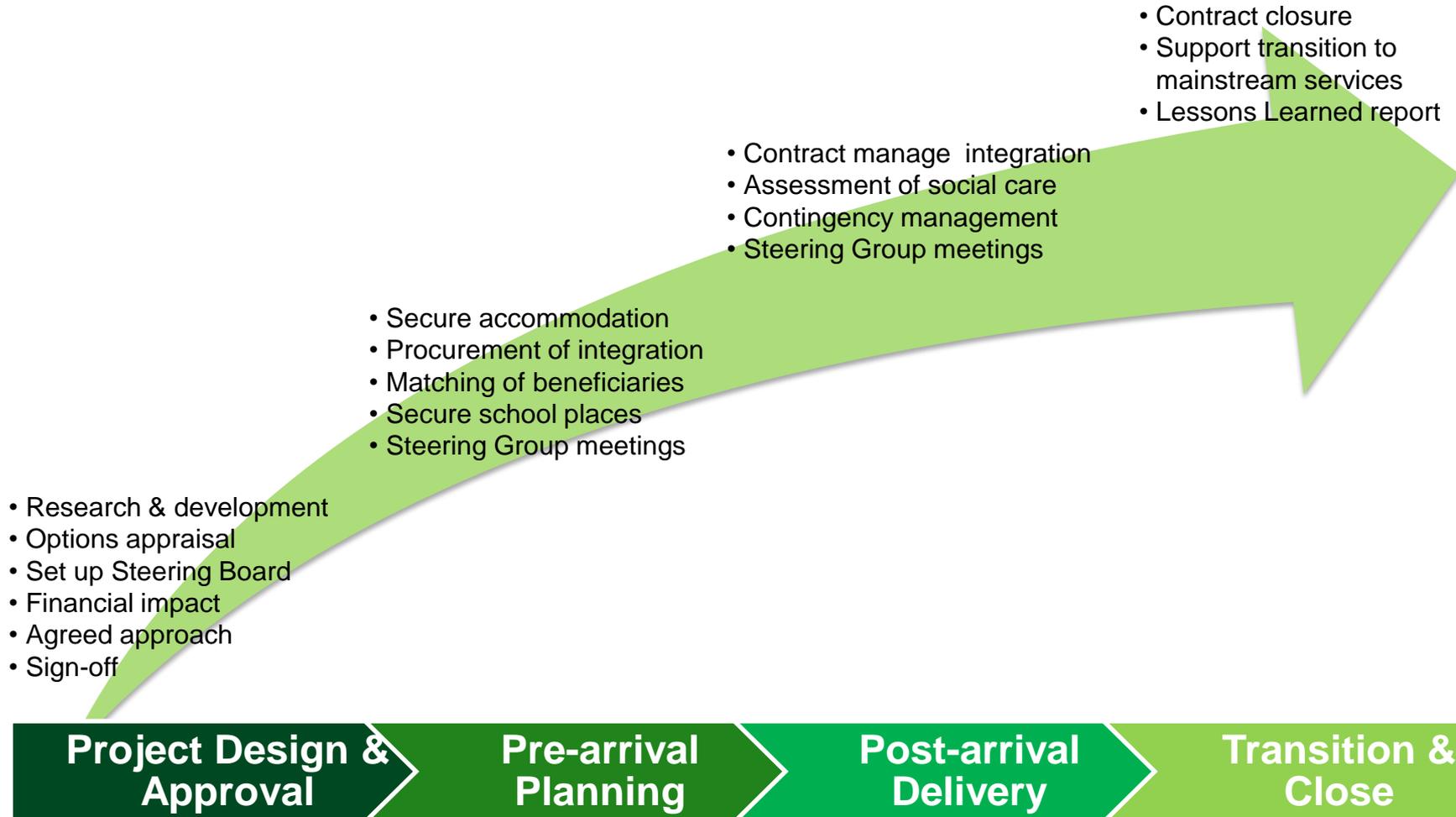
Following this, LBTH Full Council passed a motion calling on the Mayor to:

1. Explore all possible options with an aim to provide support for a “small number of refugee families”
2. Write to the PM requesting sufficient resources be provided so adequate provision could be made to refugees “whilst ensuring we meet our primary obligation to local residents”
3. Update Council on developments and additional details
4. Work with local groups and organisations and the Labour Party's Refugee Task Force

Key Challenges

- **Lack of clarity on local authority responsibilities beyond Year 1**
- **Insufficient Government funding to cover costs of delivery (especially in London)**
- **Issues in the migration pipeline and responsiveness of Home Office**
- **Limited specialism within local authorities in supporting refugees**
- **Reports by NAO and PAC identify these issues**

Project Approach



Outputs

ACCOMODATION

Arrange 2 bedroom accommodation which meets LA standards as is both affordable & sustainable (minimum 12 months)

Ensure accommodation is appropriately furnished (basic white goods but no luxury items)

Register beneficiaries with utility companies and arrangements in place for payment (no prepay/card accounts)

Arrange 'Meet & Greet' of beneficiaries at airport and escort to accommodation

Provide health & safety briefings on accommodation upon arrival

Provide an emergency contact point for beneficiaries

INTEGRATION

Provision of a 'Welcome Pack' of groceries upon arrival

Provision of cash allowance totalling £200 per beneficiary upon arrival

Assistance with registration & collection of Biometric Residence Permits

Registration with local schools

Assistance with attending JCP appointments for benefit assessments

Assistance registering with local GP

Advice and referral support to appropriate mental health/specialist services

Provide assistance with access to employment

Put in place a support plan (PIP) for each family/individual covering initial 12-months

Provide access to ESOL classes within 1 month of arrival, continue for 12-months

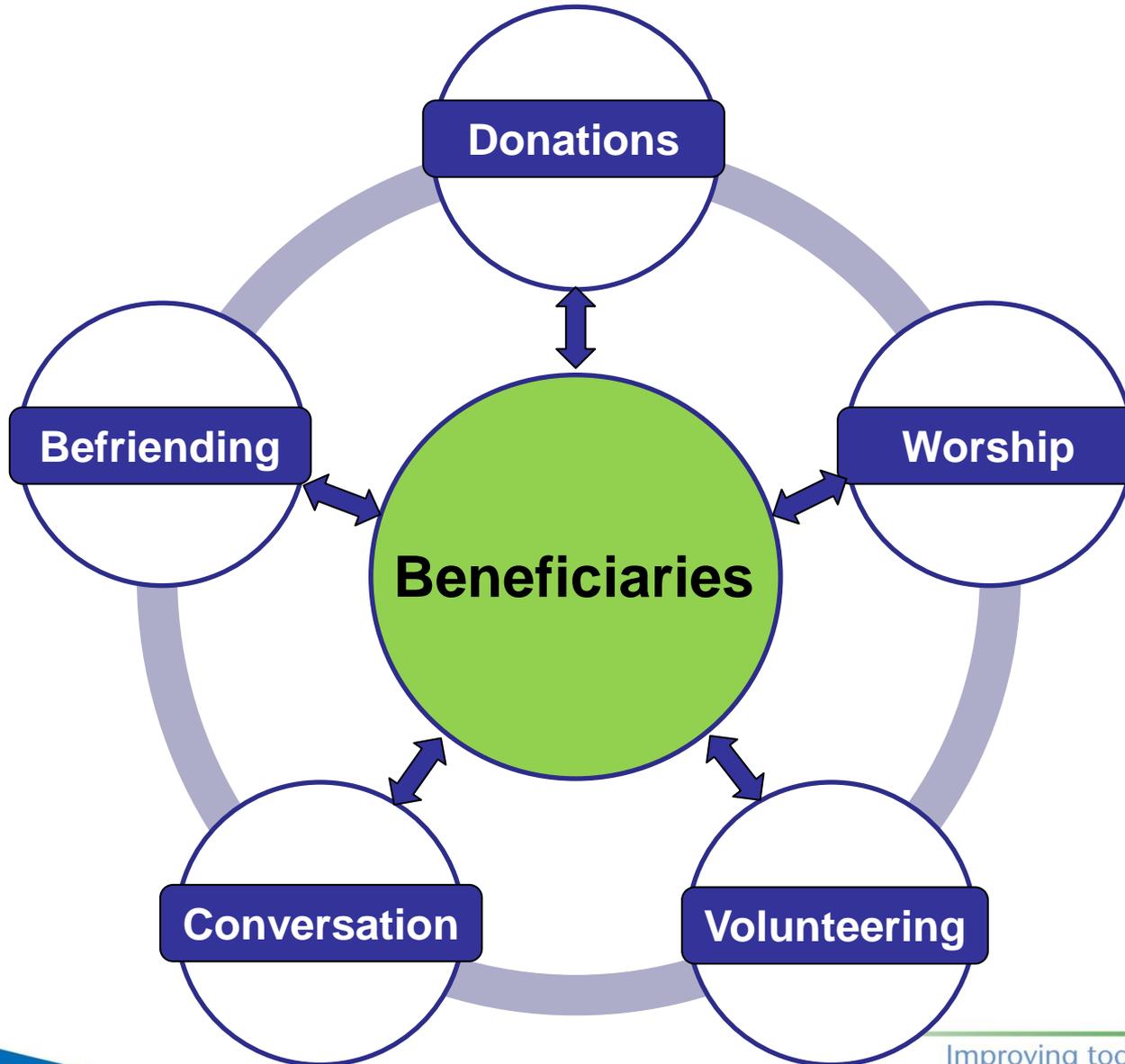
Ensure access to interpretation services throughout resettlement period

Where special needs/community care needs identified ensure access to relevant service is provided as quickly as possible

Outcomes

Tier 1 Foundation	
Rights & Citizenship	'Beneficiaries' have all necessary documentation to verify their refugee status and leave-to-remain for 5 years.
Tier 2 Facilitators	
Language & cultural knowledge	'Beneficiaries' are able to complete basic transactions in English and have completed English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) certification.
Safety & security	'Beneficiaries' feel safe & secure, and have been appropriately supported if subject to harassment, abuse or hate crime.
Tier 3 Social Connections	
Social Bridges	'Beneficiaries' are aware of, and accessing, a range of local services (such as leisure), participate in community activities and are able to navigate around London and access Services without support.
Social Bonds	'Beneficiaries' are engaged in the New Residents & Refugee Forum, and have been given opportunities to meet others on SVPRS In London
Social Links	'Beneficiaries' have accessed all entitled benefits (where they require them), have a bank account and understand how to manage a budget and access cost-effective goods and services.
Tier 4 Means and Markers	
Housing	'Beneficiaries' understand the rights and obligations of being a tenant, and how to seek accommodation following the end of their initial tenancies (including claiming UC if necessary)
Skills training and employment	'Beneficiaries' are developing employable skills and are on the journey to securing sustainable employment, where appropriate.
Health and wellbeing	Health and wellbeing needs are being met as evidenced in the independence and integration plan.
Childcare and education	'Beneficiary' children and young people are in nursery or full-time education.

Community Support



Any Questions?