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Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

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Welsh Government

## Consultation Document

# Refugee and Asylum Seeker Delivery Plan

Date of issue: 17 September 2015

Action required: Responses by 10 December 2015

## Overview

The purpose of this consultation is to seek views on the Welsh Government's revised three year Refugee and Asylum Seeker Delivery Plan. This is a successor to the 2011-2014 Refugee and Asylum Seeker Action Plan which was a commitment in the Refugee Inclusion Strategy (2008).

We want to identify and address areas of discrimination, improve access to public services and tackle social stigmatisation, harassment and bullying for asylum seekers and refugees in Wales.

## How to respond

Please respond to this consultation by email or post using the consultation response form included with this document.

## Further information and related documents

Large print, Braille and alternative language versions of this document are available on request.

## Contact details

For further information:

Fairer Futures  
Welsh Government  
Cardiff  
CF10 3NQ

e-mail: [FairerFuturesMailbox@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:FairerFuturesMailbox@wales.gsi.gov.uk)  
(Please mark your query 'Refugee and Asylum Seeker Delivery Plan')

Tel: 0300 062 8657

## Data protection

### How the views and information you give us will be used

Any response you send us will be seen in full by Welsh Government staff dealing with the issues which this consultation is about. It may also be seen by other Welsh Government staff to help them plan future consultations.

The Welsh Government intends to publish a summary of the responses to this document. We may also publish responses in full. Normally, the name and address (or part of the address) of the person or organisation who sent the response are published with the response. This helps to show that the consultation was carried out properly. If you do not want your name or address published, please tell us this in writing when you send your response. We will then blank them out.

Names or addresses we blank out might still get published later, though we do not think this would happen very often. The Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 allow the public to ask to see information held by many public bodies, including the Welsh Government. This includes information which has not been published. However, the law also allows us to withhold information in some circumstances. If anyone asks to see information we have withheld, we will have to decide whether to release it or not. If someone has asked for their name and address not to be published, that is an important fact we would take into account. However, there might sometimes be important reasons why we would have to reveal someone's name and address, even though they have asked for them not to be published. We would get in touch with the person and ask their views before we finally decided to reveal the information.

## The Foreword



The Welsh Government welcomes refugees and asylum seekers to Wales. Wales is an inclusive, multicultural and multi-faith country and we welcome the diversity of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers living in Wales and recognise whilst they all share a common experience, they are far from homogenous. There is enormous diversity in terms of gender, age, nationality, ethnicity, language, faith and sexual orientation. The Welsh Government is fully committed to making Wales a country where everyone has the same opportunities to contribute to the economic, environmental, social and cultural life of Wales.

Whilst asylum policy is not devolved to Wales, decisions taken by the UK Government can have a far reaching impact on the lives of asylum seekers and refugees living here. However, the Welsh Government has responsibility for many of the areas which can ensure all people living in Wales live a full and enriching life here. These include access to education, health services, housing and social services.

The original 3 year Refugee Inclusion Strategy Action Plan was published in June 2011 and delivery was taken forward in partnership with many of the organisations working with asylum seekers and refugees in Wales. I would like to thank all the organisations involved with the delivery of this. We value your specialist knowledge and the difference it can make to achieving inclusive and cohesive communities in Wales.

I encourage both organisations and individuals to take part in this consultation on the Refugee and Asylum Seeker Delivery Plan and give us your views on the actions we think will improve life for asylum seekers and refugees living in Wales.

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads "Lesley Griffiths".

**Lesley Griffiths AM**

Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty

## **What is this consultation about?**

The Welsh Government is consulting on the draft Refugee and Asylum Seeker Delivery Plan. The Welsh Government would like to find out what are the most important areas for improvement for asylum seekers and refugees. We are consulting on proposed actions we think will improve life for asylum seekers and refugees living in Wales.

## **Where are we now?**

The Welsh Government's vision of refugee inclusion in Wales was set out in the Refugee Inclusion Strategy published in 2008<sup>1</sup>. The overall aim of the Strategy is to support and enable refugees to rebuild their lives in Wales and to be able to make a full contribution to Welsh society.

The Strategy stated there would be a 3 year Implementation Action Plan to take forward work on the recommendations contained in the Strategy and this Action Plan was launched in June 2011<sup>2</sup>. Since 2011 the actions it contains have been taken forward both internally across Welsh Government and externally together with our partners. Annual updates have been published on the Welsh Government website in June 2012, 2013 and 2014.

There have been many changes during the last few years to government policies, both Welsh Government and UK Government. The 2008 Refugee Inclusion Strategy pre-dates the Welsh Government's Strategic Equality Plan and the Welsh Government's Programme for Government. It does not take account of the Home Office change from initial accommodation wraparound and one stop shop provision to the current provision which does not include advocacy or the provision of services to refugees. There have also been changes to the accommodation contract and increasing pressure on services in the current economic climate. However, the main issues included in the Refugee Inclusion Strategy such as language skills, information and communication between service providers and asylum seekers and refugees, further and higher education and meeting health needs are still relevant. It is the actions appropriate to address these issues which have changed.

This is why in December 2014 we held a pre consultation event with stakeholders working with asylum seekers and refugees to obtain their views on the main issues facing asylum seekers and refugees living in Wales today. We also asked participants to propose actions they considered appropriate to address these issues. Participants were asked to propose priorities/actions in areas devolved to the Welsh Government as we have competence to take action in these areas. These are reflected in the attached draft Refugee and Asylum Seeker Delivery Plan.

Since December discussions have taken place with policy leads across Welsh Government on the current and future work taking place which is relevant for

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<sup>1</sup> <http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/communities/communitycohesion/publications/refugeeinclusion/?lang=en>

<sup>2</sup> <http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/communities/communitycohesion/publications/refugeeactionplan/?lang=en>

inclusion in the draft Refugee and Asylum Seeker Delivery Plan. The aim of this draft Delivery Plan is to pull together the efforts of both Welsh Government and Welsh Government funded Third Sector organisations to support asylum seekers and refugees in their new life in Wales.

### **Next Steps**

We will be engaging with Third Sector organisations and other stakeholders (including asylum seekers and refugees) to seek their views on the priorities and actions in the Delivery Plan and how we can monitor the Delivery Plan using performance indicators. In the final version lead departments will be identified and performance indicators developed. The information and evidence provided will help the Welsh Government develop a revised set of actions to help achieve refugee inclusion in Wales. The revised Refugee and Asylum Seeker Delivery Plan will be published by the end of January 2016. The work which is being taken forward on refugees and asylum seekers will also link to the new objectives being developed for the Strategic Equality Plan 2016-2020.

## CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

Date of consultation: 17 September 2015 to 10 December 2015	
<b>Name</b>	
<b>Organisation (if applicable)</b>	
<b>Email / telephone number</b>	
<b>Your address</b>	

<b>Q1</b>	Do you think the priorities included in the draft Refugee and Asylum Seeker Delivery Plan will improve life for asylum seekers and refugees in Wales? If you think any of the priorities should not be included please provide your reasons below	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
	Comments:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Q2</b>	Do you think there should be any other priorities addressed in the Refugee and Asylum Seeker Delivery Plan? If so, what should they be? Priorities can only be considered if they are devolved to the Welsh Government – see <a href="http://gov.wales/about/organisationexplained/responsiblefor/?lang=en">http://gov.wales/about/organisationexplained/responsiblefor/?lang=en</a>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
	Comments:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Q3</b>	Do you think the actions to deliver the priorities on 'Section 1 Health and Social Services' are the most appropriate actions for refugees and asylum seekers? What other actions do you think will help tackle the priorities in this section?	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
	Comments:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Q4</b>	Do you think the actions to deliver the priorities in 'Section 2 Education' are the most appropriate actions for refugees and asylum seekers? What other actions do you think will help tackle the priorities in this section?	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
	Comments:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Q5</b>	Do you think the actions to deliver the priorities in 'Section 3 Housing and Advice Services' are the most appropriate actions for refugees and asylum seekers? What other actions do you think will help tackle the priorities in this section?	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
	Comments:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Q6</b>	Do you think the actions to deliver the priorities in 'Section 4 Gender based violence, hate crime, modern slavery and community cohesion' are the most appropriate actions for refugees and asylum seekers? What other actions do you think will help tackle the priorities in this section?	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
	Comments:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Q7</b>	Do you think the actions to deliver the priorities in 'Section 5 Arts' are the most appropriate actions for refugees and asylum seekers? What other actions do you think will help tackle the priorities in this section?	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
	Comments:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Q8</b>	Do you think the actions to deliver the priorities in 'Section 6 Employment' are the most appropriate actions for refugees and asylum seekers? What other actions do you think will help tackle the priorities in this section?	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
	Comments:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Q9</b>	We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to record them:
	Comments:

Responses to consultations are likely to be made public, on the internet or in a report. If you would prefer your response to remain anonymous, please tick here: