

Bath and North East Somerset Council

Full Council meeting, Thursday 9 November 2017

Liberal Democrat Motion on Refugees

To be proposed by Councillor Dine Romero

The Council notes that:

1. Since becoming involved in the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Programme, B&NES has welcomed 37 people from 8 families to the local area, as of July 2017.
2. B&NES has also agreed to take in 23 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children, of whom 9 have already arrived and are now living with foster families, as of July 2017. The Council has actively sought to recruit additional foster carers from the local community.
3. Councils and the LGA have urged the Government to put in place long-term funding arrangements to ensure that individuals starting a new life in the UK are properly supported.
4. It has been a year since the Council has discussed the situation of refugees who have been welcomed into the B&NES community and so an update is timely.

The Council resolves to:

1. Reiterate its willingness to be involved in the Government's national resettlement schemes and receive an update from officers on the Council's involvement to date.
2. Welcome the partnership working between the Council, charities, faith groups, and local voluntary organisations, including Bath Welcomes Refugees and Julian House, the Genesis Trust, Developing Health & Independence, and The Nest.
3. Commend the work of the Connecting Families team, social workers and other Council officers who are involved in supporting refugees in B&NES; and commend the work of charities, faith groups, and local voluntary organisations who are fundraising and giving practical support to refugees in B&NES.