



Home Office

A New Model for National Refugee Integration Services in England

Consultation Paper

The purpose of this consultation is to develop the content and contractual arrangements for a standard set of services for the integration of refugees in England. To take part in this consultation, please submit your response, by 18 December 2006, to refugeeintegrationconsultation@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk or posted to:

National Refugee Integration Services Consultation
Social Policy Unit
6th Floor Apollo House
36 Wellesley Road
Croydon
CR9 3RR

You should also contact the address above should you require a copy of this consultation paper in any other format, e.g. Braille, Large Font, or Audio. A summary of the responses received will be published within 3 months of the closing date for this consultation, and will be made available on our website.

If you have any queries on this please contact Harish Dutt on 020 8760 8489.

Introduction

1. The Home Office is considering plans for a complete overhaul of the way in which refugee integration services are structured and funded in England¹, moving beyond the structures set out in its existing strategy, Integration Matters. Currently, most of the Home Office refugee integration budget is spent on core and strategic funding of nine major voluntary sector organisations working with refugees and on three funding streams - the Refugee Challenge Fund, the Refugee Community Development Fund and the Purposeful Activities for Asylum Seekers Fund - which are run annually on a competitive basis. These existing funding arrangements have contributed considerably to the innovation, diversity and good practice present across the country, and we are keen that this should not be lost. However, the availability of services is inconsistent depending on where a refugee is living at the time of a positive decision and to some extent on their own knowledge of how to access services.
2. There are many definitions of integration but for our purposes we mean the process that takes place when refugees are empowered to achieve their full potential as members of British society, to contribute to the community, to access public services and to become fully able to exercise the rights and responsibilities that they share with other residents of the UK. Within this context the term 'refugee' means a person who has been recognised as such (as opposed to asylum seekers, whose claims are still under consideration), together with those who have been granted discretionary leave or humanitarian protection. While a person who has become a refugee always in some sense remains a refugee, the emphasis in our refugee integration services will be on those who are in the first five years of their status as refugees. That is not to say a person will become ineligible for services after five years, but if those services are effectively targeted early on in the integration process then the need for long term support should be significantly reduced.
3. The Home Office is proposing that the available budget should be redirected to provide a core set of services, closely aligned with IND's asylum case management function, to ensure that refugees in all towns and cities where there are substantial refugee populations can expect a uniform level of support. In consultation with the National Refugee Integration Forum,

¹ The proposals in this document refer to England only. Discussions will take place with the administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, where responsibility for refugee integration is devolved, to ensure that consistent and locally appropriate systems are developed for these countries.

Introduction

we have drawn up an outline set of services, likely to include access to caseworkers who will help new refugees draw up personal integration plans (the Sunrise Project, which will develop close links with Case owners in the New Asylum Model); specialist help for refugees with professional skills in accessing the employment market; a mentoring service; and a consultancy service to provide advice for those running refugee community organisations.

4. The intention behind this significant change in the way Home Office funded services are to be reconfigured is to provide a better foundation for integration of the individual refugee and for service providers to attract additional funding. We are conscious that the crucial work done by smaller organisations, particularly Refugee Community Organisations, should continue to make an important contribution to the provision of services. It is for this reason that a key strand of the proposed specification looks to provide advice for organisations to build their capacity, and we are also keen to ensure that other parts of the specification such as Sunrise and mentoring can be best used to this effect.

The proposed specification

5. The draft specification is designed to ensure that all parts of England benefit from a basic provision of refugee integration services funded by the Home Office. It is therefore crucial that proposals for service provision under the specification should take account of, and avoid duplicating, existing services funded from non-Home Office sources. The mainstay of integration services will be comprised of four main elements:
 - a Sunrise service to create a personal integration plan for each refugee, to signpost and monitor achievement of the objectives, and to develop wide-ranging partnerships to support the project
 - a mentoring service, which at an appropriate point in a refugee's integration, will contract a 'match' with a mentor from the receiving community
 - an employment service to provide advice and support to refugees, particularly those with professional qualifications, in entering the UK employment market
 - a consultancy service providing advice and support to those running Refugee Community Organisations
6. An important underlying principle of the specification and of future integration services in England is that there should be a close alignment with IND's asylum case management under the New Asylum Model and a clear pathway to achieving the integration goals necessary to become permanently settled in, and ultimately a citizen of the United Kingdom.
7. Seamless referral between the asylum and refugee integration process is essential for refugees and for those responsible for supporting them in order to make best use of the statutory 28 day transition period. Processes will be in place to ensure that a New Asylum Model Case Owner refers a new refugee to his/her local key contact point (as the specification below is drawn, this will be a Sunrise caseworker) by both providing details to the refugee and the relevant organisation. Faster asylum processing times carry significant advantages for the refugee, those involved in his/her support and the taxpayer, and the Home Office is committed to ensuring that the process concludes with effective integration support for those who receive a positive decision. We therefore intend that the responsibilities of the Case Owners under the New Asylum Model should continue beyond the grant of a positive decision. This will take the form of the New Asylum Model Case Owner maintaining a role in monitoring the integration progress of their cases and feeding back specific and common barriers to a central point.

The proposed specification

8. It is also important that refugee integration is positioned within the context of the wider work to foster the integration of the generality of migrants, and in particular the arrangements that are in place for settlement and citizenship. We anticipate that many refugees will go on to have a long-term future in the United Kingdom and remain committed to facilitating the integration of those who return to their country of origin. As such it is vital that refugees are linked into the mainstream integration services, including language for citizenship courses, at the earliest opportunity. According to the proposed specification, it can be a key responsibility of the Sunrise caseworker to have a detailed knowledge of local ESOL provision and capacity, to ensure that progress achieved by the refugee is 'banked' for future settlement and citizenship applications, and to plan for further development of language skills, possibly through language courses 'embedded' according to the refugee's skills and aspirations.

Casework support ('Sunrise')

9. All newly recognised refugees should be able to access up to 20 hours of intensive casework support for a period of 12 months from when their status is granted. This service will not be provided by civil servants although there will be close alignment with the New Asylum Model. Caseworkers will

be employed by organisations with an appropriate track-record and expertise in the provision of advice and in establishing partnerships with other agencies involved in the delivery of support services to refugees. Much of this support will be focused on the first 28 days following a positive decision at the end of which Home Office support ceases. It is an essential foundation for refugee integration to ensure that access to appropriate financial support and housing is established within this timeframe. A transition which is carefully managed by expert caseworkers will also reduce urgent and unpredictable demands on public resources. The service will be based on the provision of the following:

- Intensive caseworker support during the period immediately following the granting of status (initial contact with refugees being made within 3 days of referral from IND), conducting an assessment of needs, skills and goals, and establishing a personal integration plan (PIP);
- Signposting by caseworkers of refugees to appropriate services (housing, health, education, with particular emphasis on assisting the refugee in accessing the correct ESOL provision to meet subsequent requirements relating to settlement and citizenship, benefits); conducting review interviews at 3,6 and 9 months

The proposed specification

to ensure refugees are accessing all opportunities to meet the objectives set out in the PIP, with an exit interview in month 12;

- Developing appropriate partnerships with employment-related services to provide advice to refugees; planning and reviewing employment objectives;
 - A volunteer service to complement the caseworkers, assisting refugees where necessary, e.g. in attending interviews and understanding the processes, drawing, where appropriate, upon the expertise available through Refugee Community Organisations;
 - Co-ordination as required with the New Asylum Model (in particular facilitation of ongoing contact between refugee and Case Owner and provision of progress reports)
 - Provide interpreters as necessary
 - Ensure an equality assessment is carried out in respect of age, race, gender and disability.
10. This service will be based on the models developed under the Sunrise programme and underpinned by the provider ensuring service level protocols are agreed with relevant public, voluntary and private sector service providers, e.g. One Stop Services, 'Target Contract' providers of accommodation for those

in receipt of asylum support, Housing Associations, DWP, Jobcentre Plus, local authorities and GP practices and other NHS services.

Mentoring

11. All refugees should be offered the opportunity to be matched with a mentor from the receiving community. For newly granted refugees, this will be offered through the casework support service, ideally between 3 and 6 months from their initial contact with the casework support service. The mentoring service should be based on the Time Together franchise model. Strategies to develop English language skills for those without the necessary skills to participate in mentoring services, such as informal activities and appropriate mentor/mentee matching, should also be in place.

Supporting Refugee Community Organisations (RCOs)

12. A programme of consultancy advice and support should be established, working with mainstream voluntary sector support services so that RCOs are provided with the opportunity to develop and:
- Establish properly constituted organisations;
 - Participate in their local voluntary sector networks;

The proposed specification

- Access funding from local and national mainstream funding sources;
- Develop capacity to deliver services for their member communities as a targeted part of the delivery of services commissioned by local statutory and non-statutory agencies

Advice services for refugee professionals

13. Establishment of a service to provide specialist employment advice for skilled refugees (e.g. doctors, teachers, engineers, etc) and to support them in entering the UK employment market, working with Jobcentre Plus and other public and private careers advice services, by providing individual refugees with:

- Careers advice and guidance;
- Guidance relating to the availability of opportunities within their professions and other allied professions;
- Advice and training support for people changing career paths;
- Opportunities to participate in job experience schemes, and accessing a network of attachments developed in conjunction with local and national employers.

Advice and information from One Stop Services

14. While the “Sunrise” service will normally be the main source of advice for refugees in their first year, it will be necessary to ensure that refugees throughout their first five years have access to general advice on problems or challenges which may arise in the course of the integration process. Providers will therefore be required to demonstrate how this need will be met, whether through existing provision, such as One Stop Services (which, though primarily designed for asylum seekers, also provide much help to refugees), other advice services, or through new provision.

Possible Contractual Arrangements

15. This section of the document deals with procurement and possible ways of structuring new contractual arrangements for the delivery of standardised refugee integration services throughout England, performance monitoring and proposals for the location and distribution of services. There are two important principles underlying this discussion: that the new services will not be delivered by civil servants, although there will need to be integration with the New Asylum Model and that both value for money considerations and procurement law require that services should be procured with an element of competition.

Locations for Services

16. The Home Office wishes to ensure that all refugees are able to access a standard set of refugee integration services within a reasonable travelling distance of all locations where there are significant numbers of refugees in England. There is no comprehensive information available on current places of residence of refugees, and we consider that the most reasonable indication is the areas in which refugees who received positive decisions during 2005 were resident. This information, which is attached at Annex A, is imperfect for this purpose since it does not take account of secondary migration or longer resident refugees, but we

believe it provides a sufficient basis for further consultation. Our proposition is that services should be located in towns and cities where a minimum of 40 refugees were granted status during 2005. This strikes a balance between meeting the objective of locating services near to refugees and ensuring viable and cost-effective service provision. It must be stressed that this is merely an indicative figure and there must be scope for flexibility in finally determining the distribution of services. There are geographically large areas of the country where no single town or city had as many as 40 grants of refugee status during 2005, but where it would clearly be inequitable to provide no services and expect refugees to travel to another region. Conversely, there are other areas where a number of adjacent local authorities all saw more than 40 grants of refugee status during the year, and where it may not be necessary to provide the services in each. This is particularly the case in London, where most boroughs saw over one hundred grants in 2005, in this case the initial proposal is that services should be provided in at least five locations: Central, North East, North West, South East, and South West.

National or Regional Contracting

17. To maximise the benefits of economies of scale and resources within the Immigration and Nationality Directorate,

Possible Contractual Arrangements

the Home Office does not propose concluding separate contracts for the provision of the services in each city. On this basis there would appear to be four broad workable options for contracts.

18. **Option 1** is to run a competition for a single service supplier, responsible for the delivery of the full range of services in all specified locations in England. This would have the advantage of ensuring that the contractual arrangements, at least so far as the Home Office was concerned were relatively easy and straightforward. It would also allow for a high degree of consistency in the management of the services throughout the country. Against this option, however, would be the relatively high risk for refugee integration as a whole if the selected supplier proved inadequate, and it may be unrealistic to expect a single national provider to have the level of local expertise to manage the programme successfully on a regional basis.
19. **Option 2** is to offer national contracts for each of the main types of services concerned: Sunrise, services for refugee professionals, support for RCOs and mentoring. One advantage of this arrangement is that it would encourage different types of organisations into the market. Some might have the expertise to manage, for instance, a national mentoring contract but not a comprehensive national contract as envisaged in Option 1; and one or more aspects of the specification might be better organised on a national basis. On the other hand, a disadvantage is that this kind of arrangement could lose possible synergies between the management of the various different types of refugee services envisaged.
20. **Options 3 and 4** envisage the award of contracts for refugee integration services on a regional basis, probably with sub-contracts to meet local provision.
21. **Option 3** would determine these regions according to the nine Government Office areas. A strong advantage would be the alignment of the contracts with the Regional Strategic Coordination Groups (RSCGs) which already exist in each of these areas, except London. RSCGs have the supervision of refugee integration arrangements as part of their remit, and we would hope to build on this to ensure that the operation of the contracts best suits regional requirements.
22. **Option 4** is for contracts to be offered for all services on a basis determined by the new IND regions. IND is adopting a regionalised structure in which new regional directors are responsible for the transaction of an increasing amount of IND business. Advantages of this arrangement are that it will link refugee integration closely into the future development of IND, and give the

Possible Contractual Arrangements

regional directors, who are likely to be increasingly influential in the allocation of IND resources, an important degree of “ownership” of the refugee integration agenda. In addition, the Asylum Teams delivering the New Asylum Model have been established on the basis of these IND regions. There may, however, be a less clear route to the functions of the RSCG structure.

Who should be able to bid?

23. Potential bidders fall into a number of categories: charities; the wider not-for-profit sector, including companies limited by guarantee; local authorities; and commercial entities. The evaluation process will measure both value for money and technical expertise meaning that some organisations and sectors may be in a strong position to bid to deliver services alone and others possibly as part of a wider consortium.

Contract Structure

24. As indicated above, while the Home Office cannot enter into separate contracts covering each town or city in which refugee integration services are to be delivered, it must nonetheless have the assurance that providers at city level are properly accountable for service quality.
25. A primary requirement would be that anybody bidding for a national or regional

contract would need to include in its bid details of the arrangements into which it proposed to enter in order to deliver refugee integration services at city level. These arrangements would need to be fully transparent to the Home Office.

26. Further questions arise as to what would happen in the event of continuing poor performance or misconduct by bodies providing services at city level. The Home Office would need the right to call for reports on the situation in a given area, in addition to normal performance management arrangements (see below), and ultimately, where there is a breach of contract, to insist on the termination of contractual arrangements for the supply of services in a particular area followed by the recognition of new arrangements with another partner. It follows that the contracts, whether regional or national, to which the Home Office was a party would need to stipulate as a requirement that subcontracts entered into by the contractor should include provisions necessary to give effect to these requirements.

Monitoring and Performance Management

27. Robust and universal performance management will be critical to the successful delivery and evaluation of the standard set of services for refugee integration. In practical terms,

Possible Contractual Arrangements

and regardless of the delivery model adopted, the contracts will contain requirements for the provision of regular reports to the Home Office, through a prime contractor if appropriate. Also, on a regional level, the Home Office has set up regional strategic coordination groups (RSCG) in each of the nine English regions, whose remit is to monitor the provision of services both for asylum seekers supported by the Home Office and for refugees. They comprise representatives of the Home Office, local government and other public services in the regions concerned and meet on a quarterly basis supported by a small secretariat provided by the Home Office. RSCGs should be closely involved with advising on the delivery of refugee integration services in order to ensure that their fund of local knowledge is used to best advantage in maintaining standards and appropriateness of service provision. Precise arrangements will be determined once a strategy is agreed. We expect that IND regional management structures, under the new Director-level posts, will also be closely involved with the monitoring of delivery.

28. It will also be important to ensure that performance measures and targets are fit for the purpose of monitoring not only contract compliance by providers but also the overall impact services have on improving refugee integration. By way of an outline, we will retain the high level indicators put forward by *Integration*

Matters including employment rates for refugees; levels of English language attainment; involvement by refugees in voluntary work and contact with community groups; take-up of British citizenship (and added to this meeting proposed requirements for settlement); reports of harassment by refugees; rates of access to housing services and satisfaction with children's education. But we very much welcome comments on how measurement of performance indicators can best be shaped to enhance the integration of refugees and promote good practice among other agencies.

Contract Procedures

29. The proposed contracts, whether national or regional, will be subject to the full requirements of the relevant European Directives on procurement. Whichever of the four options in paragraphs 18-22 above were adopted, the Home Office would place advertisements inviting bids for the provision of the range of services in the specified areas. Bidders would be required to state how they proposed to supply the services in each particular area. Accordingly, a substantial amount of time would need to be built in to the bidding period to allow potential bidders to discuss with potential subcontractors the terms on which the services would be provided in each given area.
30. Once the bids were received, the Home

Possible Contractual Arrangements

Office would select a preferred bidder. If there had been more than one bid, this would be done on the basis of pre-set evaluation criteria, in accordance with normal practice. But the possibility must be anticipated that there would only be a single bidder for a national contract, or for any of the regional contracts.

at the time of the initial advertisement, set out indicative numbers of refugees in each region. Bidders will be asked to match their proposals to these estimates.

31. The Home Office would not be obliged to accept the bid of the preferred bidder as it stood. It would enter into a period of negotiation with the preferred bidder in order to adjust by mutual agreement if possible any elements of the bid with which the Home Office had difficulty. Once this process had been completed, the contract would be formally awarded and would come into force on a date agreed with the contractor.

Affordability and Apportionment of Funding

32. Affordability is of course a major consideration in the establishment of the proposed new system of refugee integration services. The amount available for the standard services is to be fixed within the current refugee integration budget (thus leaving some of the current budget for other purposes connected with refugee integration) and out of which a proportion will need to be reserved for the needs of Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Whether the contracts are offered on a national or a regional basis, the Home Office will,

Summary of Questions

The questions on which comments would be particularly welcome are:

- 1 How can New Asylum Model Asylum Case Owners best support providers and refugees during the initial integration process?
- 2 Are the four main elements of the specification the correct ones?
- 3 In particular, should a dedicated employment service be available for refugee professionals?
- 4 How can the Home Office ensure that funding from alternative sources is not lost through this process of providing a standard set of services for refugees?
- 5 How can tendering and procurement processes support the objective of building on existing services and maintaining diversity and good practice in service provision?
- 6 Are our proposals for ensuring closer links between refugee integration and overall integration policy workable? How might we enhance this relationship to the benefit of the refugee population?
- 7 Have we adopted appropriate criteria for locations for services? What changes should be made to the list in Annex A?
- 8 Which of the options for national/ regional delivery (paragraphs 18-22) is best? Would any other option be preferable?
- 9 Should there be any restriction on the type of organization which is able to bid to provide refugee integration services, either as prime contractor or as a subcontractor
- 10 Are the proposals for contract structure set out in paragraphs 24 - 26 workable?
- 11 Are the proposed performance management arrangements, and the role of the Regional Strategic Co-ordination Groups, likely to optimise performance
- 12 Are the contract procedures set out at paragraphs 29 - 31 fair, workable, and likely to produce services of high quality and value?
- 13 How can performance measurements and targets most effectively support refugee integration and promote best practice among other agencies?

Annex A: Proposed Locations in England for Refugee Integration Services

Numbers after each location represent the numbers of asylum seekers granted refugee status during 2005 living in that area.

London	Central London 1013	<i>Camden (158), City (3), Islington (156), Kensington/Chelsea (65), Lambeth (212), Southwark (190), Tower Hamlets (116), Westminster (113)</i>
	North East London 1489	<i>Barking/Dagenham (84), Enfield (310), Hackney (180), Haringey (396), Havering (7), Newham (256), Redbridge (94), Waltham Forest (162)</i>
	North West London 1327	<i>Barnet (168), Brent (275), Ealing (265), Hammersmith (94), Harrow (132), Hillingdon (188), Hounslow (205)</i>
	South East London 348	<i>Bexley (25), Bromley (27), Greenwich (121), Lewisham (175)</i>
	South West London 499	<i>Croydon (241), Kingston (43), Merton (76), Richmond (17), Sutton (23), Wandsworth (99)</i>

Annex A: Proposed Locations in England for Refugee Integration Services

South East England Brighton & Hove (62) *Might cover all Surrey, Kent, Sussex*
+ Surrey Heath (1)
= **63**

Oxford (63) + West *Might cover all Oxfordshire, Berkshire,*
Berkshire (4) + West *Buckinghamshire, eastern Wiltshire inc*
Oxfordshire (1) + *Swindon (Swindon is under South West) - 31*
South Oxfordshire (1)
= **69**

Milton Keynes (44)
+ Slough (39) +
Reading (24) = **107**

Hastings (50) +
Dover (18) + Ashford
(33) + Gravesham
(18) + Medway (23)
+ Thanet (19) +
Tunbridge Wells (21)
+ Worthing (18)
= **200**

Portsmouth (70) + *Might cover all west Hampshire including*
Southampton (25) = *Southampton*
95

Others **172**

Annex A: Proposed Locations in England for Refugee Integration Services

<p>South West England</p>	<p>Bournemouth (23) + East Hampshire (2) + North Dorset (1) = 26</p>	<p><i>Small numbers in Bournemouth itself, but could cover all Dorset, east Devon, east Hampshire (EH comes under South East)</i></p>
	<p>Bristol (177) + North Somerset (3) + South Somerst (4) + South Gloucestershire (8) + West Wiltshire (1) = 193</p>	<p><i>Could cover all Avon, Somerset, Gloucestershire, west Wiltshire</i></p>
	<p>Plymouth 33</p>	<p><i>Small numbers in Plymouth itself, but could cover all Cornwall, west Devon (inc Exeter)</i></p>
	<p>Swindon 31</p>	
	<p>Others 43</p>	

Annex A: Proposed Locations in England for Refugee Integration Services

East of England	Luton (63) + Mid Bedfordshire (1) + East Hertfordshire (2) + North Hertfordshire (5) = 71	<i>Might cover all Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire</i>
	Norwich (31) + South Norfolk (1) + Ipswich (20) = 52	<i>Small numbers in Norwich itself, but might cover all Norfolk and Suffolk (Essex might better fit with East London). Possible case for separate location at Ipswich (20)</i>
	Peterborough (101) + South Cambridgeshire (9) = 110	<i>Might cover all Cambridgeshire</i>
Others 181		

East Midlands	Leicester 154	<i>Might cover all Leicestershire</i>
	Northampton 55	<i>Might cover all Northants</i>
	Nottingham (158) + NE Derbyshire (1) + S Derbyshire (2) + 55 = 216	<i>Might cover all Notts, Derbyshire, Lincolnshire. Possible case for separate location at Derby (55, but close to Nottingham)</i>
Others 58		

Annex A: Proposed Locations in England for Refugee Integration Services

West Midlands	Birmingham (509) + Walsall (31) = 540	<i>Might cover Walsall (31) and nearby locations</i>
	Coventry 219	<i>Might cover all Warwickshire</i>
	Sandwell (128) + Dudley (40) = 168	<i>Might cover Dudley (40)</i>
	Stoke-on-Trent (120) + Staffordshire Moorlands (1) + E Staffordshire (4) = 125	<i>Might cover all Staffordshire, Shropshire, south Cheshire</i>
	Wolverhampton (68) + Herefordshire (2) = 70	<i>Might cover all Worcestershire, Herefordshire</i>
	Others 52	
<p>NB: In view of geographical proximity, solutions combining some or all of these areas could be considered.</p>		

Annex A: Proposed Locations in England for Refugee Integration Services

North West England	Blackburn 42	<i>Could cover all Lancashire</i>
	Bolton (74) + Bury (34) = 108	<i>Could cover Bury (34)</i>
	Liverpool 239	<i>Could cover all Merseyside</i>
	Manchester (372) = 499	<i>Could cover Rochdale (39), Oldham (38), Trafford (50)</i>
	Salford 96	
	Wigan 55	<i>Could cover all north Cheshire</i>
	Others 73	

NB: In view of geographical proximity, solutions combining all areas of Greater Manchester could be considered.

Yorkshire and the Humber	Bradford 80	
	Doncaster (52) = 83	<i>Could cover Barnsley (31)</i>
	Hull (56) + E Riding (4) = York (4) = 64	<i>Could cover all Humberside, York and East Riding</i>
	Kirklees (105) = 174	<i>Could cover Wakefield (43) and Calderdale (26)</i>
	Leeds 381	
	Sheffield (240) = 308	<i>Could cover Rotherham (68)</i>
	Others 37	

NB: In view of geographical proximity, solutions combining areas of West Yorkshire and of South Yorkshire could be considered

Annex A: Proposed Locations in England for Refugee Integration Services

North East England	Middlesbrough 51	<i>Could cover North Riding of Yorkshire and eastern Cleveland</i>
	Newcastle (141) + 34 + Wear (1) = 176	<i>Could cover Gateshead (34), Northern Tyne & Wear, Northumberland, and Cumbria (where there are believed to be very few refugees)</i>
	Stockton 44	<i>Could cover western Cleveland</i>
	Sunderland (49) + 1 = 50	<i>Could cover County Durham</i>
	Others 47	

NB: In view of geographical proximity solutions combining Middlesbrough and Stockton, and Newcastle and Sunderland, could be considered.

Totals	London	4676
	South East England	706
	South West England	326
	East of England	414
	East Midlands	483
	West Midlands	1174
	North West England	1112
	Yorkshire & the Humber	1127
	North East England	368

Responses: Confidentiality & Disclaimer

The information you send us may be passed to colleagues within the Home Office, the Government or related agencies.

Furthermore, information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be published or disclosed in accordance with the access to information regimes (these are primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004).

If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, under the FOIA, there is a statutory Code of Practice with which public authorities must comply and which deals, amongst other things, with obligations of confidence. In view of this it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Department.

Please ensure that your response is marked clearly if you wish your response and name to be kept confidential.

Confidential responses will be included in any statistical summary of numbers of comments received and views expressed.

The Department will process your personal data in accordance with the DPA - in the majority of circumstances this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties.

Home Office Consultation Co-ordinator Details

This consultation follows the Cabinet Office Code of Practice on Consultation – the criteria for which are set out below:

The six consultation criteria

1. Consult widely throughout the process, allowing a minimum of 12 weeks², for written consultation at least once during the development of the policy.
2. Be clear about what your proposals are, who may be affected, what questions are being asked and the timescale for responses.
3. Ensure that your consultation is clear, concise and widely accessible.
4. Give feedback regarding the responses received and how the consultation process influenced the policy.
5. Monitor your department's effectiveness at consultation, including through the use of a designated Consultation Co-ordinator.
6. Ensure your consultation follows better regulation best practice, including carrying out a Regulatory Impact Assessment if appropriate.

The full code of practice is available at:

www.cabinet-office.gov.uk/regulation/consultation

Consultation Co-ordinator

If you have any complaints or comments specifically about the consultation process only, you should contact the Home Office Consultation Co-ordinator Christopher Brain by email at:

christopher.brain2@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Alternatively, you may wish to write to:

Christopher Brain
Consultation Co-ordinator
Performance and Delivery Unit
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² Owing to the timescale to implement the proposals and the fact that there has already been considerable consultation on these matters with key stakeholders, it has been decided to consult for a period of 8 weeks.