

APPENDIX 1

ASYLUM DISPERSAL SCHEME – A PROPOSAL FOR NORTH YORKSHIRE

1) Introduction

This proposal has been developed following meetings with the Home Office, G4S and resolutions from the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Housing Board (the Housing Partnership).

The proposal follows an approach from the Home Office seeking the North Yorkshire Local Authorities' agreement to participate in the national Asylum Dispersal Scheme. This approach is part of a national "push" to widen dispersal, taking pressure off existing dispersal areas. The Housing Partnership has taken the lead in discussions with the Home Office and G4S with the overall aim of achieving a North Yorkshire - wide consensus on the issue. All the North Yorkshire Local Authorities, upper tier and lower tier, have participated in discussions which have culminated in this proposal. This proposal will not be binding on any local authority which has explicitly opted out of participation in the dispersal scheme. Where this is the case, any local agreement or otherwise will be a matter for the relevant district council and the county council and the Home Office, with the Housing Partnership taking no further part.

2) Conditions - general

The Housing Partnership will agree to participate in the Asylum Dispersal Scheme, subject to the following conditions:

- Asylum dispersal in North Yorkshire will not commence until the arrangements for maximum numbers, support, liaison and management have been agreed in writing with the Housing Partnership,
- No changes will be made to the arrangements for maximum numbers, support, liaison and management without the prior agreement in writing from the Housing Partnership,
- G4S (and any future contractors) will only use properties that have been individually and specifically agreed in advance as suitable in writing by both the relevant district council and the county council – there can be no exceptions to this commitment, Prior to agreement being given by the local authorities :
- G4S (and any future contractor) will give the full postal address of the proposed properties and how said properties will be used (e.g. families/single people, maximum numbers etc).
- The relevant district council and the county council will consider issues such as availability of school places, impact on the local schools, community tensions, access via a safe and reasonable walk to essential services (eg food shops, GP, schools) and public transport that will enable people to reasonably get to Leeds for asylum interviews
- G4S (and any future contractors) will comply with the 'bedroom standard' - a separate bedroom shall be allocated to the following persons:
 - a person living together with another as husband and wife or civil partners (whether that other person is of the same sex or the opposite sex)
 - a person aged 18 years or more
 - two persons of the same sex aged 10 years to 17 years
 - two persons (whether of the same sex or not) aged less than 10 years
 - two persons of the same sex where one person is aged between 10 years and 17 years and the other is aged less than 10 years

- any person aged under 17 years in any case where he or she cannot be paired with another occupier of the dwelling so as to fall within (c), (d) or (e) above.
- Families and single people are not placed in the same block of flats.

3) Conditions – scale and management

The following conditions will apply :

- The total number of asylum seekers accepted under this proposal will not exceed 50 throughout North Yorkshire within an initial 2 year period,
- Of the 50 individuals accepted within this period, no more than 20 asylum seekers will be placed in any single district / borough,
- After the initial 2 year period has elapsed under this agreement, it will be reviewed by the Housing Partnership but no future commitments can be made in this respect,
- Taking into account conditions specified in section 2, each individual district / borough council and the county council will specify the type of placements which will be acceptable given local conditions - singles or families or both - and this will be strictly adhered to by G4S (or a future contractor)
- Prior to any placements G4S (or a future contractor) will confirm in writing to the relevant district / borough council and the county council clear and robust management/ support arrangements including, as a minimum :
- 1 locally based support worker (within 40 miles of the placement town/ settlement) per 50 asylum seekers contact details for the support worker/s and coordinating manager specified response times - not exceeding 12 working hours provision of out of hours / emergency service as a minimum, 1 liaison meeting per week between the coordinating manager and the nominated district / borough council and county council representative/s