

Annexure 1

Question Under Standing Order 20

Question from Councillor Paul Kimber to the Lead of the Council in relation to Refugees.

Question

What is the County Council doing in readiness for refugees generally coming to Dorset?

Answer

The council has been involved in a range of meetings held regionally to consider the issues surrounding Syrian refugees since the initial government announcements.

We have not received a request for action to this point and meetings have been about keeping us informed and understanding what needs there may be.

However, specific work is now ongoing to establish what our role would be as a request may be forthcoming in coming months. A meeting has been arranged for 16 May 2016 for all agencies who will need to work with us in resettling refugees in our area across the councils in Dorset.

Invited to the meeting is a representative of South West Councils who are working with the Home Office on the second phase of the resettlement programme.

Children's Services have participated in some regional meetings in preparation for any refugees who may be unaccompanied children.

As the needs become known we will of course ensure that all members are updated and briefed on the Council's position