

SEFTON COUNCIL



OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY **(Housing Support Services to Vulnerable People)**

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors Janis Blackburne, Mhairi Doyle, Paula Murphy, Dave Robinson and Anne Thompson.

TERMS OF REFERENCE AND OBJECTIVES

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) has established the Working Group to review the topic of housing support services provided to vulnerable people by non-governmental organisations and charities and their links to statutory agencies covered by the Communities and Housing portfolio. This is a wide-ranging topic and will include looking at accommodation and support services provided to Asylum Seekers, Syrian Refugees, those fleeing domestic violence and vulnerable homeless households. The terms of reference and objectives of the Working Group are:

- The collation of information on the scale and location in Sefton of supported accommodation for vulnerable people that fall under the remit of the Communities and Housing portfolio
- How do we ensure that such services provided to vulnerable people are regulated and are being delivered in accordance with contract specification

HOW WILL THE REVIEW CONTRIBUTE TO CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY MOTION

(Note: the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, at its meeting on 10 September 2019 agreed that Working Group Scoping documents should include a section providing details of how each review would contribute to the terms of the [Climate Change Emergency motion](#))

None directly associated with this review

METHODS OF ENQUIRY

Witness interviews with officers, statutory agencies, a selection of accommodation and support service agencies, stakeholders, experts and other relevant organisations

Possible site visits

Desktop research into practice elsewhere

TIMESCALES

To commence in January 2021

To be completed by October 2021

OFFICER SUPPORT

Lead Officers:

Asylum seekers – Head of Communities

Syrian Refugees - Head of Communities

Domestic violence – Head of Communities

Vulnerable homeless households – Head of Economic Growth and Housing

Democratic Services Officer: Paul Fraser

OTHERS WHO WILL BE INVOLVED

Dependent on the refined scope of the review to include the following witnesses:

- Sefton Council officers
- Serco Group plc, the company awarded the asylum support services contracts for the north-west by the UK Home Office Visas and Immigration department
- Representatives of a selection of accommodation and support service agencies
- Other local authorities

ARRANGEMENTS FOR REPORTING TO CABINET/COUNCIL

Timetable of committees, link into the planning chart, type of report/minute

Ten Step Process Flow Chart

Committee agrees Working Group membership and appoints Chair/Lead Member

Working Group complete scoping document determining terms of reference & timetable.

Working Group submit scoping paperwork to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for approval.

Background research undertaken and evidence collected.

Working Group meet to determine questions they wish to ask witnesses.

Working Group make any necessary visits & additional evidence obtained.

Witness hearings take place & responses written up by support officer.

Working Group review headings for the final report.

Working Group and support officer draft final recommendations and approve final report.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee receives final report and recommendations and how they should be taken forward.



