

**Report of the Cabinet Member for
Public Health, Communities and Equality**

Introduction

I will be reporting as follows for Full Council on 17 February 2022:

1. by Councillor Hannaford as follows:

On the current Afghan Refugee Resettlement Scheme.

2. by Councillor Dewhirst as follows:

Please can the Cabinet Member report on the use of Coronavirus vaccines in Devon. Please can he report on the number of vaccines available in our Local Authority area per month during the last six months; the number of vaccines administered per month during the last six months and the number of vaccines that were not administered for any reason per month and what happened to them.

Response

1. Afghan Resettlement Scheme

Hotel Bridging Accommodation

The Council, alongside key partners, continue to oversee and support two temporary bridging hotels within the county. Exmouth, which commenced on 17th September 2021 and Exeter, which commenced on 20th October 2021. We currently have 118 residents in bridging accommodation (Exmouth 22 adults and 32 children, Exeter 38 adults and 26 children). 12 individuals have left local bridging hotels for secure accommodation within Devon and across the UK.

Establishing a multi-disciplinary team to oversee both hotels has allowed for strong and effective collaboration to meet the presenting needs of families. We have appointed two providers from the voluntary sector to be based within each hotel and operate a 'help desk' arrangement for families to raise questions/problems at the earliest opportunity.

All families are registered with a local GP, able to access prescribing and engaged within a wider range of health testing such as Tuberculosis screening. Public Health Nursing continue to have a weekly presence in each hotel so families can discuss their health concerns and for babies' health and wellbeing to be monitored. There is an ambition to establish a Women's Health Clinic at both hotels to empower residents

to discuss their own health and know how to take care for their own health needs. Children and young people are enrolled and attending nursery, primary, secondary and post 16 provision with feedback suggesting transitions have gone extremely well. Adults are also engaged with local ESOL provision, often several times a week to help them to learn or practice their English.

Job Centre Plus continue to maintain regular engagement with all adult arrivals, which started with supporting Universal Credit claims. To date there have been:

- Thirteen job starts mainly in farming/production roles but also cleaning, logistics and South West Water;
- Seventeen Sector Based Work Academies starts in Security and Veterinary;
- Fourteen sign ups to the Health & Social Care Skills Accelerator Programme;
- Twelve engagements with Learn Devon;
- Eight appointments with National Carers Service to support with employability skills.

Home Office have advised the Council of their intention to extend both hotels for a further six months, which could see further arrivals from other hotels or direct from overseas.

Resettlement

DCC and Devon's district councils continue to seek appropriate and affordable housing to meet local pledges towards the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy and Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme.

To date we have welcomed the arrival of one family in the Teignbridge area and two families in the Exeter area. Families receive three years funded resettlement support which is offered through a local voluntary sector organisation. The focus of this support is enabling the family to integrate into their new area/environment and create links with health, education and employment provision.

Finally, we have started a local matching process which links hotel residents who wish to stay living in Devon to local homes offered to the schemes. We have been able to locally match two families to date and will continue in our endeavour to local match where we can, but many families wish to move to large cities such as London, Birmingham and Manchester because of family connections.

2. Coronavirus Vaccines

The Cabinet Member will provide a verbal update.

Councillor Roger Croad

Cabinet Member for Public Health, Communities and Equality