



SP 23

Blaenoriaethau ar gyfer y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb,
Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau
Priorities for the Equality,
Local Government and Communities Committee
Ymateb gan: Oasis
Response from: Oasis

Oasis Cardiff
69b Splott Road
Cardiff
CF24 2BW
31.8.16

Re: Priorities for the Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee

Oasis Cardiff has been running for 8 years with the following aims and objectives:

- That refugees and asylum seekers will feel welcomed safe and supported in Cardiff.
- That asylum seekers and refugees are helped to build language, cultural and job related skills that help them to integrate into mainstream society.
- That refugees and asylum seekers feel more confident, respected, valued and empowered, with higher levels of personal self- esteem and achieve improved mental and physical health.
- That more people in Cardiff are aware of and understand about asylum seekers and refugees, their struggles and needs as well as their abilities and talents coming to accept and welcome them into the lives of their communities and the city.
- That asylum seekers and refuges are helped to build the family lives they desire and to find employment enjoying Cardiff as a place for them to contribute as well as a place of work and leisure.

We would ask that the committee consider prioritising scrutiny of the Welsh Government's Refugee and Asylum-Seeker Delivery Plan to help ensure that both refugees and asylum seekers are given increased support to allow them to integrate into their new communities in Wales. In particular, the following points have been raised from our work with this client group:

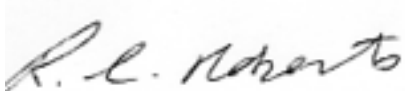
- That there would be support and recognition of the need for face to face advocacy support.
- That the provision of housing (especially for those who have just been granted leave to remain) and that the support during the transition period would improve so there is no destitution during the "move on" process.

- For the continued development of the mental health pathway including better support and training for organisations that work with asylum seekers and refugees. This would then reduce the pressure on specialised and more costly intervention.
- For the development of a structured support system for those who are destitute both asylum seekers and refugees.
- For the review of ESOL support, especially for families with children needing creche provision, including community and cultural awareness classes.
- To look at family reunion as it is not possible for many to bring their families here due to Legal Aid cuts. This causes families too often be left in difficult and dangerous situations in war torn areas. Also the families need structured support on arrival as there are practical, health and issues of the costs of flights to consider.

Finally, I ask the committee to consider the plight of refugees coming across Europe, many with relatives already in the UK, with a special consideration to the unaccompanied children. Wales has a positive history and reputation of welcoming people and I ask that Wales would stand out as a nation bringing those fleeing for their lives to a place of safety and sanctuary in Wales.

Please feel free to contact me if you require further information.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. L. Roberts', written in a cursive style.

Reynette Roberts

Director