**Meeting of the Cavan Resettlement Interagency Working Group held on 15th May 2019 in the Plasma Room, Library Building, Cavan at 11 a.m.**

**Present:** Deirdre Byrne, CMETB

Carmel Denning, DSP

 Jenny Lynch, DSP

 Niall McKiernan, Garda Síochána

 Patricia Garland, HSE

 Cathal Grant, Túsla

 Alice McMahon, County Childcare Committee

 Michael Duffy, Dept. of Justice, Equality and Law Reform

 Eoin Doyle, Director of Service

 Bridie McBrearty, SEO

M. Duffy gave an update on the Department’s recent mission to Beirut. He advised that there is pressure to have 71 families housed by end of October and that there are 270 additional people in Jordan who also need to be sorted with accommodation. The 100 people assigned to Cavan are Syrians. The first priority in the EROCs is teaching English so that after a six-month period people have a certain knowledge of the language.

It was noted that at least three households need to be housed in each location and in areas where there is adequate transport, GP services, schools, English language, training and childcare facilities. D. Byrne advised that based on experiences in Monaghan that a proper and adequate assessment of children’s need is essential prior to children attending school. It was agreed that the work of the Education and Welfare Officer for Primary Schools was vital to the success of the programme and that the Officer should be invited to join the Group.

N. McKiernan asked if a dossier of information can be provided for the Gardai on the people coming to the County and M. Duffy agreed to check this matter.

Following consideration, it was agreed that any town locations outside of area CH01 would not be considered for housing of the refugees at this time.

After discussion the following was agreed as next steps:

* BMcB to prepare draft grant application for submission to Dept. before next meeting
* BMcB to contact the Education and Welfare Officer for Primary Schools in Cavan and invite them to be part of the Group.
* All agencies to check services in the different town locations in the county.
* Cultural awareness training for staff should be organised pre-arrival.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Wednesday, 26th June 2019 at 11 a.m. in the Plasma Room, Library Building, Cavan Town.