**Meeting of the Cavan Resettlement Interagency Working Group held on 26th June 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

 Mary Rose Smith, Primary Care Network Manager, HSE

 Cathal Grant, Túsla

 Alice McMahon, County Childcare Committee

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

 Brendan Fitzgerald, Dept. of Justice, Equality and Law Reform

 Eoin Doyle, Director of Service

 Bridie McBrearty, SEO

**Apologies:** Jenny Lynch, CWO

 Elaine Nolan, Education Welfare Officer

**Draft Application for Grant:**

BMcB advised that draft grant application had been submitted to the Department but that locations needed to be agreed before it may be finalised. In this regard it was noted that the following services need to be available in any town:

* Primary and secondary school (the latter is important if a free bus service to secondary school in a nearby larger town cannot be guaranteed).
* Creches
* GP’s
* ETB’s – already present in the town, or able to work from a rented-premises locally. The latter would probably not work unless there were at least 10 adults using the service regularly.
* If English language classes are only possible in a larger town, good transport links will be necessary i.e. at least 5 times a day to and from the bigger town
* Large supermarket e.g. Tesco, Dunnes Stores, Lidl, Aldi. The resettled families will be on a tight budget and without a car, so getting best value in shopping will be very important.
* Availability of at least 3 houses in the town (not necessarily the same estate/development) so that there is less chance of the families feeling isolated.

MRS advised that there is a lack of GP services available in the majority of towns in Cavan and DB informed the meeting that adult education is available in any town. CG advised that Túsla have an office in Cavan Town with Social Workers and Social Care Workers provide outreach from these offices. They are core funders of the Family Resource Centres in Cavan Town and Killeshandra.

MD clarified the position in relation to funding application as follows: once Department is ready to sign off on it i.e. that they are satisfied that the figures included are reasonable and especially that the overall total is justifiable, he will confirm this is the case. At that point, i.e. before the agreement is signed off on, the Council can tender for the Implementing Partner, knowing that; funding will be available for 1 Resettlement Worker and 1 Intercultural Worker; and the budget available to cover direct and indirect costs for the 18 months of the Refugee Resettlement Funding Agreement.

**Locations to be Examined:**

Following discussion, it was agreed that based on the availability of all the necessary services that Cavan Town is the most suitable location, with Ballyconnell next. It was further agreed that a Resettlement Plan should be put in place for Virginia based on the fact that accommodation will be provided in this location in the coming year.

**Options for Housing Solutions:**

Based on the experiences to date in other counties it is more preferable to house the refugees in either standard social housing or those provided by an AHB – units may be purchased for this purpose under the SHIP programme. Should own stock be used then it should be replaced by a purchased unit. However that is not to say RAS and HAP cannot be explore once Implementing Partner has been identified. The lack of funding for the refurb work required on pre-lets was noted.

After discussion the following was agreed as next steps:

* BMcB to complete draft grant application and submit to Dept
* BMcB to prepare tender docs
* BMcB tp follow up re funding for pre lets
* Resettlement Plan to be drawn up for Virginia, BMcB talk to AHB, MRS to examine GP services further
* Cultural awareness training for all staff to be organised pre-arrival.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Wednesday, 14th August 2019 at 11 a.m. in the Plasma Room, Library Building, Cavan Town.