Summary of Meeting 4th May 2021

Key findings about the New Plan for Immigration

☐ The consultation has been mismanaged by being shortened to a few weeks, having misleading information and phrasing equating asylum seekers with criminals. It is over-politicised and is not evidence led. https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/apr/30/sham-200-groups-criticise-uk-government-consultation-on-refugee-policy

☐ Asylum claims should be judged on merit, not how people arrived, and there should be no two tier system.

☐ The NPfI goes back on the principles that have governed the UK’s record of admitting refugees since 1951

☐ The proposals make no allowance for people with trauma, denying the right to appeal and fresh evidence.

☐ The proposals will put innocent people into destitution / NRPF – No Recourse to Public Funds.

☐ Many proposals will be unworkable e.g. returning asylum seekers to the EU.

Facts and Figures

☐ Asylum seekers formed only about 5% of all immigrants to the UK in 2018. They are a small part of overall migration.

☐ The UK has far fewer applications each year than similar sized countries such as Germany, France and Italy.

☐ Asylum applications in the UK peaked in the early 2000s. In 2018 asylum was offered to 15,891 people (www.gov.uk)

☐ About one in three applications are accepted by the Home Office in the first instance. The final total accepted in 2018 was 46% (inc. appeals).

☐ Asylum claims are always assessed by the Home Office and the courts, which require evidence that people have a “well-founded fear of persecution” as defined by the 1951 UN Convention.

☐ In 2017 a study found that the Home Office mishandled the evidence in 100% of the 50 cases involving torture which were re-examined. (Source: Freedom from Torture)

☐ Some claims are processed within weeks, whilst other claims take many years, in which time asylum seekers are almost always barred from paid employment. In most other countries asylum seekers may have paid work.

☐ Asylum seekers initially receive £37.75 per week to pay for daily needs. If their claim and appeal are refused, financial support also ceases.

☐ About 2 people in every 1,000 in the West Midlands are asylum seekers.

(Resources from the Hope Projects Booklet “When you have to flee”)

Resources and Responses

Various resources are available from the links at https://wolverhampton.cityofsanctuary.org/

The Government consultation deadline closes on Thursday 6th May 2021

The Together with Refugees campaign launches on 10th May 2021