



## **PENDLE - Local Integration Fund**

# **SPECIFICATION**

### **1.0 Background**

Since the beginning of the Syrian uprising and civil war in 2011, hundreds of thousands of Syrians have been killed and millions displaced from their homes. These include 4.8 million refugees, most of whom are living in neighbouring countries such as Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan. Many of the Syrian refugees living in these countries are very vulnerable and in need of resettlement in a third country.

In September 2015 the UK Government announced a significant expansion of its Syrian refugees resettlement scheme and pledged to resettle up to 20,000 Syrian refugees currently living in the Middle East by 2020. The response from the British public, including many local authorities, has been overwhelming and in January 2016 all Lancashire local authorities agreed to work with the government to resettle 150 families over that period.

In 2016, Pendle resettled ten Syrian refugee families as part of the Lancashire Syrian Resettlement Programme (SRP) and a further ten families in 2017. For ease of administration / identification, families who arrived in 2016 will be referred to as 'Cohort 1' and families who arrives in 2017 will be referred to as 'Cohort 2'.

A Pendle Local Integration Fund (LIF) has been established to enable local projects and activities that bring resettled refugees and local communities together, to deliver the aims of the SRP.

### **2.0 The Objectives of Pendle LIF**

The LIF awards funding to the voluntary, community and faith sector. It is funded by the Lancashire SRP, overseen by the Lancashire SRP's Strategic Steering Group, and managed by the local authorities delivering SRP and/or their local partners and providers.

The objectives of the LIF are:

- To enhance the wellbeing of resettled Syrian refugees arriving through the SRP and the welcoming communities
- To promote the integration of resettled refugees into their local communities
- To assist the Lancashire SRP with delivering refugee independence and self-sufficiency

- To raise local awareness of the global refugee crisis and of the needs of resettled refugees
- To promote community cohesion through meaningful contact between resettled refugees and members of the local community
- To counter myths about refugees and deliver positive messages about the global, national and local humanitarian responses to the refugee crisis

### **3.0 What projects can the Local Integration Fund support?**

The LIF aims to support small-scale projects that meet the objectives and requirements of the scheme. By 'projects' we mean any activities, events or interventions delivered by local organisations of the voluntary, community and faith sector. Any project in any area could qualify for a grant provided it meets the relevant objectives and criteria. Examples of projects:

- Leisure, sporting and community activities and events
- Arts, music and cultural activities and events
- Mentoring, buddying and befriending projects
- Language and education projects

Although any type of project that meets the objectives and requirements of the LIF could be funded, we welcome proposals that can:-

- create opportunities for volunteering (of both refugees and local people wishing to work with refugees) and/or evidence potential positive impact on mental health and wellbeing.
- evidence the potential for meaningful contact or interaction between resettled refugees and other residents in the local community. Contact is meaningful when "conversations go beyond surface friendliness; in which people exchange personal information or talk about each other's differences and identities; people share a common goal or share an interest; and they are sustained long-term" (*Commission on Integration and Cohesion, June 2007*).
- provide value for money and that will maximise the impact of their projects with the available funding, including the inclusion of additional value and/or resources or match funding (this could include, for instance, contributions in kind, volunteering, etc).
- evidence the will and capacity of resettled refugees to participate in the proposed project, so previous engagement with resettled refugees and/or SRP caseworkers and other staff is desirable.

Applicants are expected to have some experience of working with vulnerable people and previous experience of working with asylum seekers and refugees would also be welcome, but is not strictly necessary.

Bidding groups or organisations will be expected to comply with the SRP policies, procedures and protocols, in particular its Media and Safeguarding Protocols. All

staff and volunteers that will be part of the projects and will be working directly with resettled refugees will need DBS clearance.

LIF awards are aimed at promoting the integration of resettled refugees who are accommodated and supported through the Lancashire SRP. They should not be used primarily to benefit other services users, including other refugees and asylum seekers, or migrant groups.

#### **4.0 Level of awards available / Applications**

The Council are interested in receiving applications for funding under LIF in support of both Cohort 1 and 2. There is normally a maximum of £2,000 available for any bid received per Cohort. Therefore as funding is available to support both Cohort 1 and Cohort 2, an organisation could bid up to a maximum of £4,000 ie £2,000 per Cohort. For applications for funding which request higher than £2,000 per Cohort, the application would need to be considered to be exceptional, to be successful in bidding. Please note, an organisation is able to make more than one application in this bidding round.

#### **5.0 What type of organisations can apply?**

The Council invites all local organisations from the Third Sector (voluntary, community or faith groups) to apply for LIF award. These include:

- Registered charities
- Charitable incorporated organisations
- Unincorporated clubs or associations
- Community interest companies

#### **6.0 The Application Process**

Organisations and groups wishing to apply for an award from the LIF need to complete the LIF Application Form. All proposals will be assessed by officers of the Council using the criteria as set out in section 3.0 - *What projects can the Local Integration Fund support?*. Responses to questions set out in the application form will be considered on the basis of whether the criteria is met or not. Please note that at least one of the Objectives of the LIF must be met, in order for an award to be considered.

Following assessment, a report will be submitted to Pendle Council's Executive with officer recommendation as to which organisations, it is felt should receive awards. Pendle Council's Executive will decide whether or not to accept the recommendations made.

The decisions will be final and there will be no right of appeal.

The LIF will be advertised through local infrastructure organisations, the Council and relevant forums and multi-agency partnerships.

## **7.0 Reporting and Monitoring the LIF**

All successful will be required to enter into a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the Council. Further, all successful applicants will be required to provide a short report at the end of the project, a template for which will be provided. All End of Project Reports will be submitted to the Lancashire SRP Strategic Steering Group, and used for the evaluation of the Programme. The Lancashire SRP Programme Coordinator may contact successful applicants for more information about the projects, their outcomes and impacts, and may use any information from the End of Project Reports and further communication with successful applicants in their reporting to the Pendle - Displaced Persons Resettlement Steering Group, Pendle Council's Executive as well as to the Lancashire SRP funder.