

## **No Recourse North East Partnership**

### **Terms of Reference**

#### **Background**

The No Recourse North East working group was set up in 2014 with the aim of sharing experience and learning with partner agencies, focusing on supporting people with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF).

The group is made up mainly of third sector organisations (facilitated by GREC, Shelter Scotland and Turning Point Scotland) as well as representatives from the public sector. Our aim is to: “ensure individuals from ethnic minority communities with a status of NRPF affected by or threatened with homelessness, domestic abuse and/or destitution receive appropriate and good quality advice and support”.

As we approach 10 years of work we have continued to grow and strengthen our partnership approach, which has been acknowledged as an example of best practice. We now have 3 working subgroups focusing on supporting victims of Gender-Based Violence, International Students, and people seeking asylum. However, we do this in an increasingly challenging scenario as the hostile environment for migrants in the UK deepens. Immigration legislation is ever changing, restrictions are increasing for people with NRPF and negative narratives around migration are widespread. In addition, funding streams for public and third sector organisations compounded with the cost-of-living crisis make improvements to the existing supporting infrastructure more complex to achieve.

In this context and in our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, we are proposing a Terms of Reference (ToR) document to guide and make explicit the guiding principles and aims of our work as members of the NRNE Partnership.

## **Purpose and principles:**

The NRNE Partnership will seek to collaborate in mutual respect and solidarity to:

- Develop a shared understanding of what good practice and infrastructure to support people with NRPF looks like in a Grampian context.
- Take a pro-active and human rights-based approach to engage, empower and make sure that rights holders and people with lived experience voices are heard at all levels.
- Take a pro-active approach to challenge racist and anti-immigration rhetoric and messages in our day-to-day practice, within our organisations and at a wider scale where possible.
- Connect our practice and learning with key policy development in Scotland and the UK.
- Constructively challenge and identify opportunities for improvement at all levels. We will raise key concerns on behalf of Partnership members in local and national forums and with policy makers.
- Improve data gathering processes to have a better overview of the number of people affected by NRPF related issues.

Human Rights and equality: Scotland's human rights journey is ongoing and the development of a Human Rights Bill for Scotland that integrates international Human Rights into law reflects this. We support the integration of the International Convention of the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination into Scots Law, which will strengthen The Equality Act 2010 and enable decisive steps towards addressing systemic and pervasive inequalities.

## **Structure**

The NRNE Partnership is facilitated by staff members of Shelter Scotland, Grampian Regional Equality Council (GREC) and Turning Point Scotland. Facilitators are responsible for strategic planning and representing the Partnership locally and nationally. They meet monthly and give direction and support to the Project Co-ordinator (a post of 20 hours per week currently funded by the Fairer Aberdeen Fund) to make sure that decisions made by the Partnership

members are progressed, new pathways to develop capacity are explored, and key learning points are shared with relevant stakeholders and policy makers.

The wider NRNE Partnership meets quarterly and has 3 working sub-groups in which different partners participate to improve policy, practice and support:

- Sub-group for Gender-Based Violence survivors, chaired by Turning Point Scotland
- Sub-group for International Students, chaired by Shelter Scotland
- Sub-group for asylum and dispersal, chaired by GREC

Sub-groups meet periodically as agreed by members, and all facilitators may contribute to each sub-group as needed.

Minutes of each meeting will be kept and distributed among members.

## **Membership**

Membership of the wider NRNE Partnership is open to representatives of third and public sector organisations, as well as community groups that adhere to the Terms of Reference. In addition, partners can choose to get involved in the working groups that feel most relevant and appropriate to their organisations and area of work.

Provisional Membership List: <https://nrnepartnership.org/partners/>

Membership will expand as appropriate to ensure the Partnership's aims and purposes are progressed. New organisations will be invited to join as members where relevant and facilitators will approve them once organisations have signed and agreed to the Partnership's guiding principles and the Terms of Reference.

## **Commitment**

Members of the NRNE Partnership make an active commitment to:

- Contribute to identify improvements in a collaborative way, sharing experience, learning and resources where relevant.
- Attend and participate in wider partnership meetings, as well as in the subgroups deemed appropriate. Where possible, send a deputy to the relevant meetings if unable to attend.
- Uphold our guiding principles in our partnership work as well as out with our meetings and in day-to-day practice.