**Health Literacy and Safeguarding – Workshop to look in detail at the barriers and issues experienced by refugees and asylum seekers and consider possible solutions to these issues**

**Event: 22/03/19**

The meeting was led by a representative from the Home Office, who will be writing up a report from the workshop and other engagement which will go to the Chief Executive of the Council and a director at the Home Office. There is likely to be a further workshop held to include service users, possibly divided into two meetings, one each for adult asylum seekers and children who are asylum seekers. The final report should be with Calderdale Council by June, with the five reports from all of the place-based approach pilots due by September.

A number of issues were raised at the meeting:

* Discussion around suitability of properties for disabled refugees and asylum seekers
* Government policy is not to translate.
* The need for consistent information for patients and GPs re eligibility for support.
* Issues around mental health as trauma is not always recognised by schools, SPA and CAMHS

There was discussion about the new induction pack refugees and asylum seekers, with agreement that it should be translated into different languages and should include a section on local information which could be regularly updated.

Also it was suggested that:

* as the areas for dispersal widen, additional support may be needed in areas that had not previously taken in asylum seekers
* a future piece of work could be to follow a child's journey through the asylum process.

**Actions**

* More awareness training is needed by professionals
* Interpretation should be available at every health appointment
* NHS staff need training about the different groups and their entitlement to access health services and appropriate interpretation
* refugees and asylum seekers should be able to obtain mental health assessments and appropriate follow-up services suitable for the needs of this vulnerable group
* the new welcome pack should include a section on local resources