

Cllr. Hart,
Chairman, Devon County Council's Cabinet
Bovisand Lodge
Bovisand, Nr. Plymouth
PL9 OAA



Exeter City of Sanctuary
c/o CoLab
King William Street
Exeter
EX4 6PD

20th August 2016

Dear Cllr Hart

Exeter City of Sanctuary is part of a National City of Sanctuary network of local groups (CoS). We are working to build a culture of welcome and hospitality towards asylum seekers and refugees among organisations and members of the Exeter community. You can find out more about our work at www.exeter.cityofsanctuary.org and www.cityofsanctuary.org

At a recent meeting we agreed that the plight of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) would be the focus of our current campaign work. Several individual members of City of Sanctuary have written to you as individuals in the past and have had correspondence from Simon Kitchen which highlighted the difficulties DCC has in meeting this challenge.

However, we were very pleased to hear that DCC has recently welcomed two UASC as part of the new dispersal scheme. Please can you confirm that this is the case and that DCC will be accepting more newly arrived unaccompanied asylum seeking children entering the UK.

Also we are aware that the provisions of the new Immigration Act give responsibility to government and local authorities to resettle some of the unaccompanied asylum seeking children currently in camps in Europe, including at Calais. Please could you let us know what progress, if any, has been made at national and county levels in terms of the transfer and resettlement of these extremely vulnerable children in Europe- and other UASC from camps in the Middle East and North Africa.

Exeter City of Sanctuary would wish to assist in efforts to support and resettle unaccompanied children. With that aim in mind, we respectfully request that you respond to our queries above and also send us the contact details for the officers responsible for making arrangements for resettling UASC.

Your key contact for administration and reporting is Wendy Milne: info@exeter.cityofsanctuary.org
Exeter City of Sanctuary, C/o COLAB, King William St. Exeter EX4 6PD

We look forward to hearing from you

Signed: Wendy Milne on behalf of Exeter City of Sanctuary Campaigns Group

info@exeter.cityofsanctuary.org
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