

Leicestershire County Council
Liberal Democrat Group



Cabinet – 11th October 2016

**Liberal Democrat Comments on the Unaccompanied
Asylum Seeking Children National Transfer Scheme**

I am deeply saddened to see the recommendations set out in this report.

Syrian children have been hit particularly hard by this war and there are heart-breaking stories of many of them losing their parents and being left to fend for themselves. There have been numerous reports of unaccompanied children disappearing, leaving many of us fearing the worst for what has happened to them. This scheme was an opportunity for Leicestershire local authorities to give at least small number of them some light at the end of this deeply dark tunnel.

I understand the Council's financial difficulties and agree that the Government must fully fund the care costs of the refugees allocated to Leicestershire, but it is concerning the report is responding with a decision to opt out rather than fighting to get the funding needed to help these children.

I urge both the Council and Government to work together and find a solution that will enable Leicestershire to do its fair share in providing for refugee children.

Lives depend on it.

Simon Galton

Liberal Democrat Group Leader

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