

Activity Sheet 2.3

EXTRACT 1

Evening Standard

27 July 2000

While Labour-run Lewisham spends on average less than £100 a week on housing single adults – largely because it uses its own council-housing stock – Tory Westminster is squeezed for space, has little council-owned property free and pays an average

£175 a week for an adult ...

... The *Evening Standard* reported this week how seven Romanian gypsy families who were moved from London to Glasgow – at a saving of £450 per family a week – are being moved

back to the home counties. The 30 men, women and children sent to a 'hard to let' housing estate are to be rehoused in High Wycombe (London) after claiming racial abuse.

EXTRACT 2

'Refugees slam "hostel from hell"', by Jason Burke and Tracy McVeigh

Last week a group of London Park residents spoke for the first time about life in what has been dubbed 'the hostel from hell' – and described an atmosphere of gang

violence, intimidation, frustration and petty theft. They told of a world where the strong bully the weak, and the weak bully the weaker. 'There is much trouble, much

fighting. I never feel safe. You cannot even take out a cigarette because someone will take it from you', said Mohammed, 31, a student who escaped from one of Saddam

Hussein's jails. 'My room has been burgled three times but I have nothing. The only thing they could find was my travel card, so they took that.'

... Over the next six months the Government is to continue its policy of dispersing refugees across the

country, preferably among their own communities. This, however, has drawbacks, said Vaughan Jones,

director of Praxis, a charity which runs English classes for some London Park residents. He recommends that

families should be encouraged to take in a refugee, as they would an exchange student ...

Guardian 9 July 2000

EXTRACT 3

'Refugees refuse to move into free houses', by Ian Burrell, Home Affairs Correspondent

Thousands of asylum seekers who were to be dispersed throughout Britain are opting to sleep rough in London rather than be given free housing elsewhere. The determination of the asylum seekers to remain in the capital

has thrown into disarray government plans to move 65,000 people out of London and the South-east.

Refugee support groups predicted last year that asylum-seekers would be

unwilling to leave London because of the presence of people from their own communities, specialist immigration lawyers and medical services. Asylum-seekers were given the choice of being housed outside

London or providing their own accommodation and subsisting only on a voucher package of £36 a week for an individual or £57 for a couple.

Independent 21 September 2000