
Report to: Audit and Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 13th June 2024

Subject: Ukrainian Refugee Programme - Update

Report by: Strategic Director (Place)

1.0 Purpose

1.1 To brief Committee on developments pertaining to the rehoming of refugees displaced from the war in Ukraine.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Committee is asked to note, comment on and challenge the report.

3.0 Background

3.1 Following the beginning of the war in Ukraine in February of 2022, the UK Government approved two entry routes for Ukrainian Displaced Persons (UDPs) fleeing the conflict

3.2 The Ukraine Family Scheme

- As the name implies a Visa was provided to permit individuals to reside with immediate, or extended, family members who had a right to reside in the UK.

3.3 The Homes for Ukraine Scheme

- This relied upon individuals resident in the UK volunteering to sponsor UDPs to come to the UK. Sponsors offered to provide accommodation either in their own home or in accommodation owned by them. It was up to sponsors to arrange their own match with persons fleeing the war. Once arranged a Visa was provided to the UDP.

3.4 Scottish Government's super sponsor scheme was a sub-category of the Homes for Ukraine scheme which removed the need for applicants to be matched prior to being given permission to travel to the UK. The Scottish Government would compile a list of volunteer sponsors and administer the matching of UDPs against available accommodation.

3.5 The Super Sponsor Scheme closed to new applicants on 13th July 2022. The Homes for Ukraine Scheme remains open.

4.0 Administration

4.1 The Council was required to carry out property and person checks for all households who offered to provide accommodation.

4.2 The person checks required the completion of a basic Disclosure Scotland check facilitated by Social Services.

4.3 In-person property checks, to ensure basic safety and habitability standards, were undertaken by officers from Environmental Health.

4.4 The overall scheme was, and continues, to be managed by officers from the Housing Service. This included coordinating the relevant checks, liaising with potential sponsors, assisting in the matching process, supporting sponsors, making payments to hosting sponsors and UDP arrivals, providing information and statistical data to CoSLA and the Scottish Government, overseeing the budget and making financial claims to Government.

4.5 Each UDP was entitled to a “Welcome Payment” of £200 upon arrival.

4.6 Each host was entitled to a “Thank You” payment of £350 per month for each month of accommodation provided. This rose to £500 per month after twelve months.

5.0 Personal Support to Arrivals

5.1 A range of services have been available in assisting households arriving from Ukraine to settle into their new living arrangements. These have included:

- Housing Support officers who provided settling in visits and ongoing support to ensure access to health services, access to Social Security benefits and signposting to employability and adult education services.
- Education and school services for arrivals of school age
- Adult Education in the form of ESOL
- Adult Care services in arranging support and equipment for a number of arrivals with disabilities.
- Housing Options officers who have provided advice to UDPs looking to move to independent living.

6.0 Sponsors

6.1 97 household within Clackmannanshire expressed an interest in hosting refugees from the war in Ukraine under the Super Sponsor Scheme

6.2 Checks were completed for 57 potential sponsors/hosts

6.3 36 hosts have provided accommodation to UDPs in Clackmannanshire with one having provided accommodation for over 21 months.

7.0 Arrival from Ukraine

7.1 40 households from Ukraine have been accommodated in Clackmannanshire since February 2022. These comprise:

- 80 individuals in total
- 22 of whom were aged under 18
- 5 of whom were aged 70 or greater

7.2 30 households remain living in Clackmannanshire, 13 of whom are living with hosts. These households comprise:

- 59 individuals in total
- 13 of whom are aged under 18
- 5 of whom are aged 70 or greater.

7.3 14 Households have been assisted by the Council's Homeless Service with 6 households currently being provided with temporary accommodation.

8.0 Finance

8.1 £1.1m of funding has been received from the Scottish Government which has been utilised to cover the costs associated with running the refugee programme. Spend to date is £575k with a further £599k remaining. A proportion of this funding is utilised in staffing the resources that have provided the settling in support and the ongoing support function. The budget remaining will provide support for new arrivals and ongoing hosting arrangements.

9.0 Ongoing Scheme Commitments

9.1 The Homes for Ukraine visa scheme remains open for persons wishing to leave Ukraine but new arrivals have eased considerably. Two new household, comprising 3 people in total (all adults) have arrived since January 2024. However, the situation in Ukraine is unpredictable and the situation could change quickly.

10.0 ESOL and School Services

10.1 The Council has an established Education Refugee Team, based in the Clackmannanshire School Support Service, which delivers support for families arriving in Clackmannanshire. To date, this team has supported the resettlement of 210 individuals, 74 of whom are Ukrainians. The breakdown of the total figure highlights that as a Local Authority we have 107 adult refugees, 41 families with children, 3 unaccompanied minors, 91 children enrolled in our schools, 8 senior phase learners linked on ESOL school link courses, 18 children supported with EAL in primary schools and 18 young

people supported with EAL in secondary schools.

10.2 The delivery of ESOL sits with our Community, Learning and Development Team. The re-design/re-structure of the CLD team has resulted in no reduction in the provision of ESOL but as part of our ongoing review of resources and needs of learners, we have recently reviewed our model of delivery. We currently have approximately 58 learners accessing ESOL provision in 2024/2025. Out of the 68 learners we had in 2022/2023, 10 have gone on to a positive destination. This is provided by one full time ESOL tutor (temporary funding until April 2025) and 0.4 ESOL tutor (who is supporting delivery until March 2025). Forth Valley College also receives funding from the Scottish Funding Council to provide ESOL for Adult Learners. They currently run:

- ESOL level 3-4 course, 2 hours per week, 13 students
- ESOL A level 5-6 course, Exam preparation and presentation at Nat 5 and Higher Level, 4 hours per week, 12 students
- ESOL Schools, 4 hours per week, 7 students

10.3 As outlined in Scottish Government's New Scots Strategy, we continue to work collaboratively with Forth Valley College and our Third Sector Partners, including Forth Valley Welcome and the Scottish Refugee Council, to ensure that learners are placed in the most appropriate classes for their level of need, and where appropriate, wider supports e.g. wellbeing, employability, family and other supports are provided effectively.

11.0 Sustainability Implications

11.1 None identified

12.0 Resource Implications

12.1 Financial

12.2 Finance have been consulted and have agreed the financial implications as set out in the report.

13.0 Exempt Reports

Is this report exempt?

Yes (please detail the reasons for exemption below)

No

14.0 Declarations

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

(1) **Our Priorities** (Please click on the check box)

Clackmannanshire will be attractive to businesses and people and ensure fair opportunities for all

Our families, children and young people will have the best possible start in life

Women and girls will be confident and aspirational, and achieve their full potential

Our communities will be resilient and empowered so that they can thrive and flourish

(2) **Council Policies** (Please detail)

15.0 Equalities Impact

15.1 Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations?

Yes

No

16.0 Legality

16.1 It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes

17.0 Appendices

NIL

18.0 Background Papers

18.1 Have you used other documents to compile your report? (All documents must be kept available by the author for public inspection for four years from the date of meeting at which the report is considered).

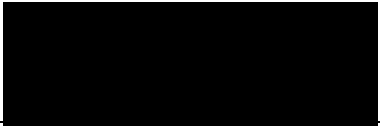
No

Author(s)

NAME	DESIGNATION	TEL NO / EXTENSION
Wilson Lees	Team Leader (Housing)	2357
Murray Sharp	Senior Manager (Housing)	5113

Approved by

NAME	DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE
------	-------------	-----------

Pete Leonard	Strategic Director - Place	
--------------	----------------------------	---