



## Report to Policy Committee

**Author/Lead Officer of Report:** Janet Sharpe,  
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Services

**Tel:** 0114 2735493

**Report of:** Executive Director, Operational Services  
**Report to:** Finance Sub Committee  
**Date of Decision:** 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022  
**Subject:** Refugee Resettlement Funding

Has an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) been undertaken?	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
If YES, what EIA reference number has it been given?				
Has appropriate consultation taken place?	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has a Climate Impact Assessment (CIA) been undertaken?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If YES, give details as to whether the exemption applies to the full report / part of the report and/or appendices and complete below:-				

### Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an overview of the current arrangements for refugees resettling in Sheffield, including recent changes to provide support for Ukrainian Refugees, and to seek approval for grants to support those arrangement.

## Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Finance Sub-Committee:

- i. Notes the contents of the report and in particular the financial income provided by the Government to support a number of refugee support schemes benefitting refugees resettling in Sheffield.
- ii. Approves the specific grants to the Ukraine Community Group, the Refugee Council, SPRING and Migration Yorkshire as set out in this Report.
- iii. To the extent not already delegated by the Constitution, delegates authority to the Director of Housing to take such further decisions as are necessary, including authorising grants in excess of £50,000, to deliver the UK Resettlement Scheme, Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP), Afghan Citizen Refugee Scheme (ACRS) and the Homes for Ukraine Scheme so long as the costs associated with those decisions are covered by the funding made available to the Council in relation to those schemes.

## Background Papers:

UKRS funding instruction  
ARAP/ACRS funding Instruction  
Homes for Ukraine funding guidance to Las

Lead Officer to complete:-	
1	I have consulted the relevant departments in respect of any relevant implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist, and comments have been incorporated / additional forms completed / EIA completed, where required.
	Finance: Helen Damon/Sonya Oates
	Legal: Sarah Bennett
	Equalities & Consultation: Anne Marie-Johnson
	Climate: n/a
	<i>Legal, financial/commercial and equalities implications must be included within the report and the name of the officer consulted must be included above.</i>
2	<b>SLB member who approved submission:</b> Ajman Ali
3	<b>Committee Chair consulted:</b> Cllr Terry Fox, Cllr Paul Wood, Cllr Jayne Dunn, Cllr George Lindars-Hammond, Cllr Julie Grocutt and via Gold Incident Group members
4	I confirm that all necessary approval has been obtained in respect of the implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist and that the report has been approved for submission to the Committee by the SLB member indicated at 2. In addition, any additional forms have been completed and signed off as required at 1.

<b>Lead Officer Name:</b> <i>Janet Sharpe</i>	<b>Job Title:</b> <i>Director of Housing</i>
<b>Date: 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2022</b>	

## **1. PROPOSAL**

### **1.1 Background**

- 1.1.1 In 2004 Sheffield City Council was the first local authority to welcome resettled refugees when the Gateway Protection Programme (GPP) was launched in the UK. Since 2016 Sheffield City Council has resettled refugees under both the GPP and the Syrian Vulnerable Person's Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) and the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme (VCRS). These schemes are managed regionally with Leeds City Council being the Accountable Body and providing co-ordinating activities, with funding being passed from them to the other partner local authorities to fund local support activity.
- 1.1.2 In March 2019 Cabinet agreed that the Council would continue to resettle refugees under all three schemes until March 2020 but gave delegated authority to the Director of Housing to continue the schemes for up to three further years should no substantial changes be made to the delivery and finance of the schemes.
- 1.1.3 In April 2020 the Home Office merged all three existing schemes into the UK resettlement scheme. The funding instructions for this scheme were the same as the VPRS and VCRS schemes. This meant there was no change in operation and Gateway refugees who previously only received 12 months month of support were given additional support in line with VPRS and VCRS schemes.
- 1.1.4 On 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2021 the Home Office minister wrote to Local Authority CEO's asking for an urgent response and support to the emerging situation in Afghanistan and the security of Afghan locally engaged staff (LES) who had provided supported military personal in Afghanistan. The Home Office launched the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) to relocate LES staff and families who had been evacuated to the UK. The Home Office also announced the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS). The funding for the ARAP and ACRS schemes was finally agreed at the same amounts as the UKRS scheme with support being over 3 years. Sheffield responded to the requests to support these schemes by reducing planned UKRS refugee arrivals and sharing arrivals between the UKRS and Afghan schemes.
- 1.15 In conjunction with Migration Yorkshire<sup>1</sup> a 'fair share' calculation was developed with each Local Authority receiving a proportion of refugees based on a per head of population calculation. Revised allocations based on this calculation in 2021/22 are highlighted below:

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<sup>1</sup> As per paragraph 1.1.1 Leeds City Council is the lead partner on behalf of a number of local authorities in the region. Migration Yorkshire is the service within Leeds City Council that is responsible for discharging its obligations.

Scheme	UK arrival numbers	SCC fair share number
UK Resettlement Scheme	5000	44
Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy	8000	70
Afghan Citizen Resettlement Scheme	5000	44

## 1.2 Homes for Ukraine Scheme

- 1.2.1 Following the start of the war in Ukraine in March 2021 the Home Office announced the Ukraine Family Visa Scheme and the Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) announced the Homes for Ukraine Scheme where sponsors within the UK can offer accommodation within their home to Ukrainian refugees. The Homes for Ukraine Scheme places responsibilities on the local authority to undertake checks on sponsors and their accommodation and manage support for refugees. The funding for this scheme is for one year at equivalent levels to the first twelve months of existing schemes. No funding is provided for the Ukraine Family Visa Scheme.
- 1.2.2 There is no requirement to bid for funding and indeed the Council does not control the numbers of individuals resettling in Sheffield. Sponsors volunteer themselves and the arrivals are driven by how many sponsor placements a city has.
- 1.2.3 When the scheme was announced, Sheffield City Council Chief Executive asked the Director of Housing to establish an incident group and governance structure in response to the Homes for Ukraine Scheme drawing together all key departments and partners to put in place the delivery arrangements to manage new arrivals into the city and, informing senior officers and cabinet leads of the rapidly changing picture. The local authority is expected to undertake initial post arrival checks on the sponsors address and refugees' welfare. The local authority also must undertake DBS (disclosure and barring service) checks on all sponsors and members of their household over 16 and some property standard checks to ensure the accommodation provided is safe. Following all satisfactory checks being completed the local authority confirms the successful placement to the DLUHC (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities). In the event a sponsor or address not suitable or a breakdown in the sponsorship arrangement the local authority needs to look for other accommodation through re-matching the refugee to a new sponsor or through housing options.
- 1.2.4 Now that the Scheme is more embedded it has become clear that in addition to support provided in-house there are a number of external partners actively working with Ukrainian Refugees whose work can help to ensure more successful integration into the city. The Committee is recommended to support this work through grant funding from the funding allocated by DLUHC to support the Homes for Ukraine Scheme:

- **Ukraine Community Group - AUGB**  
A grant to the Ukraine Community Group of up to £30,000 to allow them to rent a site for a weekly community meeting and supporting activities.
- **Refugee Council**  
A grant of approximately £260,000 to provide additional therapeutic support to refugees within Sheffield. This grant will expand the current provision which is funded through our current UKRS regional partnership with Migration Yorkshire and will allow Refugee Council to support an increase in the number of refugees within the city.
- **SPRING**  
A grant of up to £372,000 to support the work conducted by the SPRING programme to continue support in the city for all refugees. The Director of Housing will work with spring over the next 6 months on bids for additional funding and to try and secure a support pathway for all refugees arriving within Sheffield.

1.2.5 It is also recommended that some of the funding (a grant of 1.8% of received funding from the £10,500 payments - see Financial Implications below) be passed to Migration Yorkshire to allow them to provide the regional co-ordination activities training courses and lobbying for the Homes for Ukraine Scheme in the same way as they do for the other Refugee schemes detailed in this Report.

## **2. HOW DOES THIS DECISION CONTRIBUTE?**

2.1 Sheffield was the first City of Sanctuary and as a city is proud to welcome asylum seekers and refugees into its neighbourhoods. Continued involvement with the UK Resettlement Scheme, Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy, Afghan Citizen Resettlement Scheme and the Homes for Ukraine Scheme confirms this supports and commitment that Sheffield intends to be a place of safety for those fleeing persecution.

## **3. HAS THERE BEEN ANY CONSULTATION?**

3.1 The Council is not required to carry out a consultation process in respect of these proposals. A formal consultation process has not been carried out.

## **4. RISK ANALYSIS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION**

### **4.1 Equality of Opportunity Implications**

4.1.1 An EIA is currently in place that supports the Council's activity to support all refugees arriving in the city and has already been published.

## 4.2 Financial and Commercial Implications

### 4.2.1 Funding

4.2.1.1 A summary of the confirmed funding packages for all three schemes is set out below along with the recently announced funding package to support the Homes for Ukraine Scheme in the first 12 months. DLUHC are yet to announce funding for this scheme beyond 12 months:

	<b>UKRS</b>	<b>ARAP</b>	<b>ACRS</b>	<b>Homes for Ukraine</b>
Integrated support package for 12 months per person	£8,520	£10,500	£10,500	£10,500
Support package years 2 onwards	£12,000 paid over years 2 to 5	£10,020 paid over years 2 and 3	£10,020 paid over years 2 and 3	No current information or planned announcements
ESOL	£850	£850	£850	Funded from the £10,500
Education	3-4 yrs £2250 5-18 yrs £4500	3-5 yrs £2250 5-18 yrs £4500	3-6 yrs £2250 5-18 yrs £4500	2-4 yrs £3,000 5-11 yrs £6,580 11-18yrs £8,755 *
Health	Direct primary and secondary year 1 healthcare costs paid.	Direct primary and secondary year 1 healthcare costs paid.	Direct primary and secondary year 1 healthcare costs paid.	
Exception needs fund	Held by the Home Office. Bids made as required	Held by the Home Office. Bids made as required	Held by the Home Office. Bids made as required	

*\*The Education payments made on the Homes for Ukraine Scheme include an additional tariff to support children with SEND*

4.2.1.2 Funding on all schemes is given based on the confirmed number of refugee arrivals into the local authority. There is no requirement to bid for funding. Funding is paid in arrears.

4.2.1.3 The ARAP scheme was provided to relocate LES and families following the rapid evacuation from Afghanistan. This scheme will not be an ongoing scheme. The UKRS and ACRS schemes will both continue to welcome 5000 refugees to the UK each year on each scheme. Based on the fair share calculations SCC has indicated we will welcome refugees to these schemes in 2022/23 as outlined below:

Scheme	UK arrival numbers	SCC fair share number
UK Resettlement Scheme	5000	44
Afghan Citizen Resettlement Scheme	5000	44
Refugees from SCC 2021/22 pledge who experienced delays in arrival/allocation		28

- 4.2.1.4 Current information indicates 361 sponsors within the city are matched to 766 Ukrainian refugees. So far 495 refugees have arrived to 231 sponsors placements. A data return has been submitted to DLUHC for the first two quarters of this scheme. Projected income is outlined below:

Refugees arrived	497	£5,218,500
Thank you payments	395	£138,250
Children		
2-4 years	23	£69,000
5 to 11 years	79	£519,820
12 to 18 years	68	£595,340

- 4.2.1.5 This return will generate income to fund our response to the Homes for Ukraine Scheme as indicated above. Funding for Children will be paid directly to the Children and Young People's Service by the Department of Education to fund support within Schools and the Education sector.
- 4.2.1.6 Thank you payments of £350 are paid to the authority by DLUHC to reimburse the council for monthly payments which are made to approved sponsors on the Homes for Ukraine Scheme.
- 4.2.2 Monitoring:
- 4.2.2.1 Specific details regarding the funding rules and guidance to Local Authorities are attached to this paper in Appendices A to C.
- 4.2.2.2 Expenditure of income on the schemes is managed within the authority's financial management process with regular scrutiny being applied to payments and charges to ensure it is made within the rules and guidance provided.
- 4.2.2.3 Budgets and forecasting are in place based on expected income and reporting of spend and projected outturn is captured within the regular financial summaries and reports presented to the Council's incident governance meeting (Gold) and the Operational Services Portfolio Housing Leadership Team. Regular updates will be provided to ensure all expenditure is within budget without additional costs being incurred by the authority.



- 4.2.2.4 Previous grant funding has been subject to clawback if terms and conditions are not met. It should be assumed that this will be the case for the Homes for Ukraine Scheme.
- 4.2.2.5 Grants awarded to partner agencies will have conditions included to ensure organisations keep detailed financial records and ensure that the money awarded is used in line with the rules and guidance for the relevant schemes.
- 4.2.3 Key features of the grant taken from the DLUHC guidance are set out below:
- 4.2.3.1 Funding is ringfenced and will match the tariff of the first year of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) and Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP).
- 4.2.3.2 Funding will be paid at a rate of £10,500 per refugee. The cost of DBS checks for sponsors is expected to be covered within this payment.
- 4.2.3.3 DLUHC will also fund a £350 optional ‘thank you’ payment to lead hosts provided they meet the criteria as set out in the scheme guidance. This payment will not be made until a visit to the sponsoring property to ensure suitability has been completed.
- 4.2.3.4 Councils are responsible for the prevention of fraud for this scheme. Any costs arising for counter fraud activities and clawback of payments are covered within the £10,500 payment.
- 4.2.3.5 It is recommended that a 10% sample check is conducted for the £350 payments.
- 4.2.3.6 Additional funding will be paid for educational requirements at the following annual rates:
- Early years (ages 2 to 4) - £3,000
  - Primary (ages 5 -11) - £6,580
  - Secondary (ages 11-18) - £8,755
- 4.2.3.7 These tariffs include funding for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). All associated costs should be met within these tariffs. Claims for additional costs will be considered on an exceptional basis only.
- 4.2.3.8 Grant payments will be made quarterly in arrears and will be subject to confirmation that guests have arrived, and that conditions have been met. Payments will also be dependant on the timely submission of monitoring data.
- 4.2.3.9 Quarterly returns must be signed off by the Section 151 Officer. A reconciliation will be carried out at the end of each financial year. Any

unspent funding, or funding paid that exceeds the pressures based on the number of guests and sponsorship households in their area must be repaid to the funder.

- 4.2.3.10 The Project Manager will need to read, understand and comply with all of the grant terms and conditions and the Code of Conduct for Grant Recipients.

#### 4.3 Legal Implications

- 4.3.1 The Home Office has the power, under section 59 of the Nationality Immigration and Asylum Act 2002, to participate in a project designed to arrange or assist the settlement of migrants (whether in the United Kingdom or elsewhere), including powers to provide financial support to an organisation in the United Kingdom or another country which arranges or participates in a project of that kind and to provide or arrange for the provision of financial or other assistance to a migrant who participates in a project of that kind.

- 4.3.2 The Council will enter into grant agreements with grant recipients to ensure that any obligations it has to DLUHC are passed, as appropriate, to those recipients and the recipients do not put the Council in breach of its obligations to DLUHC.

- 4.3.3 The majority of people assisted under the UKRS, ARAP and ACRS schemes will be accommodated in private rented housing, but it may occasionally be necessary to use social housing if individual needs cannot be met in the private sector. Where refugees are allocated Council housing or nominated to registered providers, this will be done in accordance with the Council's statutory Allocations Policy. Refugees resettling under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme will live with sponsors.

### **5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 5.1 Due to the need to urgently respond to the emerging Ukraine situation and support newly arriving refugees into the city it was agreed to work with the existing city infrastructure and organisations that currently support the Council and our most vulnerable refugees. If SCC were to choose not to support, through grant funding, the organisations carrying out the work described above, it would leave support needs of hundreds of refugees unmet. This would lead to a consequential impact on existing services which would not be adequately resourced to deal with the increased demand.

### **6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 The Council now has over 15 years' experience of management and delivery of similar refugee resettlement programmes, the longest recent involvement of any local authority in the UK.
- 6.2 The UK government has committed to resettling the most vulnerable

refugees, bringing people to the UK who have fled war and persecution and are temporarily based in neighbouring countries. The UKRS, ARAP, ACRS and Homes for Ukraine Scheme are funded by central government, with money provided at a level which funds the Council and its delivery partners to provide services and support to refugees for the period determined on each scheme.

Janet Sharpe  
Director of Housing

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