

Report to: Policy & Performance Improvement Committee - 11 September 2023

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Report Summary	
<b>Report Title</b>	Resettlement Update
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	The purpose of the report is to update Members on the resettlement programmes operated by the Council.
<b>Recommendations</b>	That Members note and welcome the progress made in the delivery, development and monitoring of all of the Resettlement Programmes.

## 1.0 Background

1.1 In January 2023, the Council brought together all resettlement activity in the Housing Services Business Unit, which consists of a Resettlement Co-Ordinator and three support workers.

1.2 Part of the rationale was to establish the longer-term resettlement service in the Directorate and to make the best possible use of government grants and support. In doing so, this released our Community Development team from the emergency response role they had been undertaking since April 2022 following the breakout of war and subsequent support need to help those fleeing the Ukraine.

1.3 The schemes currently available in the UK are:

- Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS)
- Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP)
- UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS)
- Ukrainian Family Scheme (UFS)
- Homes for Ukraine Scheme (HFU)

Of these the council operates four of them, the UFS does not require input or support from the local authority as it is a family support scheme, see description below.

1.4 **Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme** - This scheme was set up to support those who have assisted the UK efforts in Afghanistan and stood up for values such as democracy, women’s rights, freedom of speech, and rule of law as well as vulnerable people, including women and girls at risk, and members of minority groups at risk (including ethnic and religious minorities and LGBT+).

- 1.5 **Afghan Resettlement and Assistance Programme** - This scheme is a separate scheme to the ACRS and offers Afghan nationals who have worked for or alongside the UK government, and meet the ARAP criteria, relocation to the UK.
- 1.6 **UK Resettlement Scheme** - This scheme replaces the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme, offering a route to resettlement for a wider scope of people.
- 1.7 **Ukrainian Family Scheme** – This scheme was set up to allow Ukrainian nationals with family members already settled in the UK to apply to join these households.
- 1.8 **Homes for Ukraine Scheme** – This is a ‘host’ based scheme where householders in the UK register to facilitate individuals and families residing in their accommodation for a minimum term of at least six months.
- 1.9 All of these schemes involve a strong partnership delivery as the requirements of creating a new home and life are multifunctional and we cannot do this alone. There is a well-established group of agencies who support and deliver training on our behalf, so that once we have secured accommodation or placement, the group go on to help households settle into their communities.
- 1.10 The support ranges from assistance with accessing critical services such as health and education and delivering classes that teach the English language. There is also significant input from local charities and voluntary groups who support in community-based activities like attending appointments, getting involved in community activities, building support networks and help with accessing equipment, toys and anything else they may require to successfully transition in their community.

## **2.0 Update**

- 2.1 When households arrive in the UK their immigration status will vary depending on which scheme they have been approved under to enter the UK.
- 2.2 Any individual or household coming to the UK under one of the three Syrian and Afghan schemes will be granted a five year right to remain. They are placed into independent self-contained housing, suitable to their household size. As you might expect, the input into these households starts at a high level from the support network (including the Council) when they arrive and will, over time reduce, as they become established in their communities, developing independent living and their time on the schemes coming to an end.
- 2.3 Currently of the three schemes we have:  
ACRS 2 Households;  
ARAP 3 Households;  
UKRS 2 Households.  
With the last family arriving in September 2022, they will be part of the scheme until September 2027.

- 2.4 Newark & Sherwood also accommodated households under a scheme that ran previously known as the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Scheme. This ran from 2016 to 2021. Under this scheme the Council assisted 13 households, all of whom have settled well into their communities and are now living independent lives.
- 2.5 For those individuals and households arriving more recently under the Ukrainian Family Scheme and Homes For Ukraine scheme, guests are granted a three year right to remain in the UK. The Council has no data on UFS placements in the district as this sits outside the schemes the Council are responsible for.
- 2.6 When individuals and households arrive in the UK under the Homes for Ukraine scheme, guests are placed into a host setting, for a minimum of 6 months. This is a different approach to previous schemes and the residents of Newark and Sherwood have been very generous in opening up their homes to support those fleeing the war in Ukraine.
- 2.7 Prior to arriving, the Council complete a home assessment and safeguarding check of the host accommodation. This is followed by a safe and well visit after guests have arrived and further visits to understand how the arrangements are working for all parties and to establish the longevity of placement.
- 2.8 The Homes for Ukraine scheme has been very successful with 105 households passing through the scheme and **67** households in current host placements with 3 new arrivals anticipated in the next few weeks.
- 2.9 To support local authorities in meeting additional housing needs in their areas related to resettlement and homelessness, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC) announced a £500m Local Authority Housing Fund to provide capital funding for English councils to increase their housing stock.
- 2.10 Following a decision in March 2023, the Council successfully applied for funding, being the only Council in the County to receive the funding. The funding supports the purchase of 14 homes to assist with alleviation of housing pressures. So far, the Council have acquired 35% of the homes planned with the project due to completed by November 2023.
- 2.11 In addition, Barratts Homes have supplied three homes to the council for a 2-year period to support with the temporary housing of individuals currently placed under specific resettlement schemes. As with all of the council's resettlement programmes, we are working closely with internal colleagues as well as external partners, agencies and voluntary groups to identify and settle relevant households into this accommodation.

### **3.0 Implications**

In writing this report and in putting forward recommendations, officers have considered the following implications: Data Protection, Digital and Cyber Security, Equality and Diversity, Financial, Human Resources, Human Rights, Legal, Safeguarding and Sustainability, and where appropriate they have made reference to these implications and added suitable expert comment where appropriate.

### **3.1 Financial Implications – FIN23-24/5973**

This is an update report on the progress of the resettlement programme and therefore does not have any financial implications. Those specific project mentioned that do have financial implication have been reported on separately.

### **3.3 Equalities**

The update has no direct equalities implications that have not already been taken account of in their separate reports published and agreed previously.

### **Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

None