

Report of:	Executive Member for Culture and Communities – Councillor Stephen Hill Director of Environment and Community Services – Geoff Field
Submitted to:	Executive
Date:	19 April 2022
Title:	Homes for Ukraine Impact
Report for:	Decision
Status:	Public
Strategic priority:	Vulnerability
Key decision:	Yes
Why:	Decision(s) will have a significant impact in two or more wards
Urgent:	No
Why:	

Executive summary

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) has released guidance around the expectations on Local Authorities as a result of the Homes for Ukraine scheme. This guidance covers issues such as data sharing, safeguarding, payments for hosts and guests, education, health, community integration and more. Details can be found at: [Homes for Ukraine: guidance for councils - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-guidance-for-councils)

Middlesbrough Council propose the following management approach:

- Liaising with North East Regional Migration Partnership (NEMP), British Red Cross, and Local Resilience Forum (LRF) regarding reception arrangements at port of entry.
- Completing property checks when data on sponsor is shared by DHLUC.
- Completing safeguarding checks through internal systems and Disclosure and Baring Service (DBS) as required.
- Managing the interim payment for guests.
- Providing education.
- Making appropriate service referrals.
- Supporting arrivals in accessing benefits and work in partnership with statutory and voluntary services.
- Providing homelessness assistance if matching fails in line with statutory duties.
- Administering payments to sponsors.

- Utilising a proportion of the tariff to launch trauma informed hosting courses through VCS.
- Ensuring health protection is in place (i.e. GP registration, Covid vaccination, childhood immunisations).

Appendix 1 sets out the expectations on Middlesbrough Council for Ukraine Resettlement and **Appendix 2** illustrates the local process for guests arriving in Middlesbrough.

Purpose

1. To update Executive on the impact of the Homes for Ukraine programme in Middlesbrough and get agreement on how it is being managed locally.

Background and relevant information

2. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) has released guidance around the expectations on Local Authorities as a result of the Homes for Ukraine scheme. This guidance covers issues such as data sharing, safeguarding, payments for hosts and guests, education, health, community integration and more. Details can be found at: [Homes for Ukraine: guidance for councils - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-guidance-for-councils)

3. Definitions

“Sponsor” or “sponsors” refers to an individual, group or organisation who has been approved to accommodate an individual or household from Ukraine under the “Homes for Ukraine” sponsorship scheme.

“Guest” or “guests” refers to an individual or household previously resident in Ukraine, prior to 1 January 2022, who have secured a visa under the “Homes for Ukraine” scheme, which enables them to be housed by a sponsor.

4. The Homes for Ukraine scheme was launched on 14 March 2022 by the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.
5. The number of people who can access this scheme is uncapped and is dependent on the capacity of the sponsors who come forward.
6. Guests will be able to live and work in the UK for up to three years and access benefits, healthcare, employment, and other support.
7. The sponsor eligibility criteria set out that they must be in the UK, can be of any nationality, with any immigration status, provided they have at least six months’ leave to remain within the UK and pass the background checks. They can live in any part of the UK. Sponsors are asked to provide accommodation for a minimum of six months. Sponsors can also receive an optional ‘thank you’ payment of £350 per month for up to the first 12 months of sponsorship. This payment is limited to one monthly payment per residential address, regardless of the number of individuals sponsored. Payments will stop when the sponsorship ends.
8. Sponsors should not charge rent. They will not be expected to cover the costs of food and living expenses, although they may wish to offer this, especially in early weeks while guests are finding their feet in the UK.
9. The Home Office will carry out background criminal record checks on guests coming to the UK

prior to leaving the Ukraine and Local Authorities will carry out DBS checks and housing checks on sponsors wanting to host a guest.

10. Appendix 1 sets out the expectations on Middlesbrough Council for Ukraine Resettlement and Appendix 2 illustrates the local process for guests arriving in Middlesbrough.

11. Middlesbrough Council propose the following management approach:

- Liaising with North East Regional Migration Partnership (NEMP), British Red Cross, and Local Resilience Forum (LRF) regarding reception arrangements at port of entry.
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- Supporting arrivals in accessing benefits and work in partnership with statutory and voluntary services.
- Providing homelessness assistance if matching fails in line with statutory duties.
- Administering payments to sponsors.
- Utilising a proportion of the tariff to launch trauma informed hosting courses through VCS.
- Ensuring health protection is in place (i.e. GP registration, Covid vaccination, childhood immunisations).

What decision(s) are being recommended?

12. That the Executive:

- Note the impact of the Homes for Ukraine programme in Middlesbrough and agree how it is managed locally.

Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

13. Introducing this management approach will allow the Council and key partners to provide services to sponsors and guests and ensure that any support needs are met

Other potential decision(s) and why these have not been recommended

14. The option to do nothing has been considered and it is not recommended due to the fact that central government have placed responsibility on LA's to support guests and make check on sponsors. It is therefore necessary to have a management plan in place.

Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)

15. Implementing the recommendations for this report will result in:

- a. A coordinated management approach to delivering the scheme in Middlesbrough

Legal

16. There is no statutory requirement to consult in relation to these proposals.

17. Councils have a statutory duty to promote the welfare of adults and children at risk and reserve the right to check in on guests and inspect accommodation once they have arrived.

18. The LA will provide homelessness assistance if matching fails in line with statutory duties

19. The LA will also hold responsibility for completing DBS checks on hosts.

Strategic priorities and risks

20. This is a developing situation and risks will continue to be reviewed as the programme progresses

Human Rights, Equality and Data Protection

21. An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and is attached to this report

Financial

22. A payment of £10,500 per hosted Ukrainian will be made to the Local Authority, as well as payments for education. All guests will be entitled to £200 per person as an initial payment, and hosts are entitled to an optional £350 per month for up to 12 months. Both these payments have to be administered by the Local Authority. The £350 payment is paid in arrears and councils must cover the administration costs including costs of fraud prevention.

Actions to be taken to implement the recommended decision(s)

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline
A delivery implementation plan will be developed to ensure that the recommended decisions are implemented, including key milestones and will be monitored by a Governance Board.	Jolande Mace	22/04/2022

Appendices

1	Expectations on LA for Ukraine Resettlement
2	Ukraine Flowchart HOST VISA
3	EIA

Background papers

Body	Report title	Date

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