

Template for Impact Assessment Level 1: Initial screening assessment

Subject of assessment:	ARAP/ACRS/UKRS Resettlement			
Coverage:	Cross-cutting			
This is a decision relating to:	<input type="checkbox"/> Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/> Policy	<input type="checkbox"/> Service	<input type="checkbox"/> Function
	<input type="checkbox"/> Process/procedure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Programme	<input type="checkbox"/> Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Review
	<input type="checkbox"/> Organisational change	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please state)		
It is a:	New approach:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Revision of an existing approach:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
It is driven by:	Legislation:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Local or corporate requirements:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Description:	<p>Key Aims, Objectives and Activities</p> <p>To change the current pledge of resettling 15 ARAP/ACRS families (arrivals currently stands at 14) to include UKRS resettlement and agreeing to resettle up to 5 families every year, across the three programmes. As per the date of this writing (23.03.2023), we have resettled 11 families towards our pledge of 15. We will continue to work towards achieving our pledge until such time as the report is passed through Executive, after which numbers will increase by no more than 5 families per financial year.</p> <p>Activities are set out in the funding instructions for the programmes (https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-relocation-and-assistance-funding-instruction and https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-resettlement-programmes-funding-instruction-2022-to-2023) but include such things as identifying suitable accommodation pre-arrival depending on family needs and providing ongoing support around integration, health, education, and employment. The proposed programme will provide immediate assistance to families who arrive in the UK under the different policies and will receive between three and five years of support for their integration.</p> <p>Activities will be aligned to the objectives as set out above, and include working on “Personal Integration Plans”, welcome orientation, getting to know the local area, upskilling, and more. Partnership working with other statutory, non-statutory, and voluntary agencies will also be included.</p> <p>Statutory Drivers</p> <p>Key statutory drivers for this programme include but are not limited to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees is the framework which underpins international refugee protection. It, along with the 1967 Protocol, clearly sets out the definition of a refugee, along with the kind of legal protection, other assistance and social rights a refugee is entitled to receive. It also highlights the obligations of refugees towards their host country. The Convention defines a refugee as someone who ‘owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it.’ This is the definition used by both UNHCR and the UK when determining whether somebody is a refugee. The Afghanistan Resettlement and Immigration Policy, which prioritises those eligible for the scheme. Decisions are made by the Home 			

Office and families are matched to local authorities that have agreed to sign up to the scheme.

- The Equalities Act 2010, which legally protects people from discrimination in wider society.
- The Human Rights Act 1998, which sets out the fundamental rights and freedoms that everyone in the UK is entitled to.
- The European Convention on Human Rights, which protects the rights and liberties of those who live in Europe.

Differences from any previous approach

There is a current agreement to resettle 15 families who have arrived in the UK under ARAP or ACRS. These individuals are provided with immediate support on arrival, including housing, education, employment, and wider integration. The proposal suggests that this work will continue and will also include a further resettlement scheme, being UKRS. Rather than pledging towards a total number of families, the proposal is to support up to 5 families a year, across the three different resettlement schemes.

Key stakeholders and intended beneficiaries

Stakeholders:

- Stronger Communities Middlesbrough within Environment + Commercial Services/Stronger Communities
- Education providers
- School admissions
- Ethnic Minority Achievement Team
- Public Health
- NHS/Integrated Care Board
- Social Care (adults and children)
- Voluntary Agencies
- Strategic Migration Partnership
- Home Office
- Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
- UK Visa and Immigration
- Cleveland Police
- Cleveland Fire Brigade
- Department for Work and Pensions
- Safeguarding (children and adults)
- Interpreters
- Ministry of Defence


	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing providers <p>Beneficiaries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Middlesbrough residents • Afghanis resettled in UK since August 2021 • Vulnerable people as identified by United Nations <p>Intended Outcomes</p> <p>The intention of the program is to provide support to highly vulnerable international new arrivals and to increase overall community cohesion and resilience in Middlesbrough.</p>
Live date:	July 2023
Lifespan:	July 2023 – July 2032
Date of next review:	July 2028, if there are changes to UK government funding package associated with any resettlement packages

Screening questions	Response			Evidence
	No	Yes	Uncertain	
<p>Human Rights</p> <p>Could the decision impact negatively on individual Human Rights as enshrined in UK legislation?*</p>	☒	☐	☐	<p>Article 2 – Right to life – Everyone’s right to life shall be protected by law. Article 3 – Nobody shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Article 9 – Freedom of thought, conscience and religion – This includes the freedom to manifest religion or belief. Article 2 of the First Protocol – Right to Education.</p> <p>Those arriving under any of the three resettlement programs (ARAP/ACRS/UKRS) have been assessed at being in danger to life. Those arriving on the scheme may also have been subjected to degrading or inhuman treatment and torture. Information in relation to this is shared with the receiving Local Authority, and referrals to social care and health will be made in these cases. Those who arrive here have access to places of worship across different faiths. In addition, the Strategic Cohesion and Migration Manager chairs the interfaith network. All children who arrive under any of the programs are immediately entitled to education. Partnership working with school admissions and the Ethnic Minority Achievement Team is already in place. In addition, adults are entitled to access ESOL education and efforts are already being made to increase this provision.</p>
<p>Equality</p> <p>Could the decision result in adverse differential impacts on groups or individuals with characteristics protected in UK equality law? Could the decision impact differently on other commonly disadvantaged groups?*</p>	☒	☐	☐	<p>The Equality Act 2010 requires that the impact of recommendations is considered as part of the decision-making process. The Act requires that the Council must have due regard to the need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act. • Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. • Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. <p>Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular the need to:</p>

* Consult the Impact Assessment further guidance appendix for details on the issues covered by each of these broad questions prior to completion.

Screening questions	Response			Evidence
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic • take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it; • encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low. <p>The proposal is particularly relevant to the Race protected characteristic because of the nature of the proposal, however it is potentially relevant to all protected characteristics where they are relevant to individual reasons for applications for resettlement. Qualification for the different schemes is prescribed by government legislation and supporting statutory guidance.</p> <p>There are no concerns that the proposal could impact adversely on this element of the PSED.</p> <p>Evidence used to inform this assessment includes... equality impact assessments conducted by other local authorities that have had very successful outcomes through similar schemes for some years. They include Kent County Council, Plymouth City Council, Colchester Borough Council, Bristol City Council, and Colchester Borough Council.</p> <p>In addition, Middlesbrough is an area of asylum dispersal with a constant at cluster number of asylum seekers of around 680 people. Out of those who are granted asylum, only around 17% remain in Middlesbrough. As such, the demographic makeup of Middlesbrough will not change significantly by the addition of five families per year and the support mechanisms to ensure cohesion and resilience are already in place.</p>
<p>Community cohesion</p> <p>Could the decision impact negatively on relationships between different groups, communities of interest or neighbourhoods within the town?*</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>If managed properly, community cohesion should improve. Wards can be diversified and further improve relationships between neighbours. The intent is for families to be dispersed across various wards in Middlesbrough. However, some resistance in traditionally white British wards in particular can be expected.</p> <p>The programme recommends the recruitment of additional Community Cohesion workers, who will continue to implement best practice from work done as part of the Controlling Migration Fund, thereby improving community cohesion within neighbourhoods and wards.</p> <p>Public opinion on immigration in the UK is still negative in just over half of the population (58%). However, attitudes do seem to be softening. Data is available on perception of migration in a variety of contexts through The Migration Observatory.</p>

Screening questions	Response			Evidence
				<p>The team is currently working on local community cohesion rates. However, extensive work has been done in wards with traditionally low community cohesion, including through locality working, and it is expected that this will show an improvement in cohesion and resilience. In addition, numbers involved in the scheme will be controlled, which aligns with the government's own priorities on controlling migration, and something that is popular in public opinion.</p> <p>The team will encourage arrivals to engage with their local community, both settled and new and emerging. In addition, monitoring of community tensions is already taking place.</p>
<p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➡ If the answer to all of the above screening questions is No then the process is completed. ➡ If the answer of any of the questions is Yes or Uncertain, then a Level 2 Full Impact Assessment must be completed. 				

Assessment completed by:	Jolande Mace	Head of Service:	
Date:	24 April 2023	Date:	07/06/2023