

# Hertfordshire Strategic Migration Steering Group

## Ukraine Briefing 01/04/2022

This update predominately focuses on the delivery of Homes for Ukraine Scheme, which Councils have direct responsibility to deliver.

The impact of other ways people may arrive in the county, such as the Ukraine Family Scheme, is being monitored as there may be a call on Councils' services through these other routes.

### **Homes for Ukraine Scheme**

#### **National context – what we know**

2,700 Homes for Ukraine visas issued - 28,300 applications made in the scheme's first 15 days.

22,800 Ukraine Family Scheme visas issued.

#### **Government Guidance**

Updated guidance has been issued:

For Councils - [Homes for Ukraine: guidance for councils](#)

For Sponsors - [Homes for Ukraine: sponsor guidance](#)

For Guests - [Move to the UK if you're from Ukraine](#)

[Welcome guide for Ukrainians moving to the UK](#)

#### **Roles and Responsibilities: current situation**

Since the guidance for councils was issued, Hertfordshire local authorities and wider stakeholders have worked together to determine roles and responsibilities. The below information is subject to change as further guidance is issued.

Function	Responsibility
Visas	Home Office
Sponsor expressions of interest and those with matches	DLUHC
DBS checks	County Council
Data sharing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• DLUHC holds data</li><li>• County Council receives local data from DLUHC and distributes data to Districts &amp; Boroughs</li><li>• Districts &amp; Boroughs to feedback results of accommodations checks so they can be loaded on DLUHC system</li></ul>

# Hertfordshire Strategic Migration Steering Group

## Ukraine Briefing 01/04/2022

Function	Responsibility
Safeguarding checks Accommodation checks Welfare visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accommodation checks – District &amp; Boroughs</li> <li>Welfare visits - County Council</li> </ul>
Administer interim payment £200	County Council
Education	County Council
Referrals to specialist services, public health, mental health, adult social care, and children's services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Majority County Council</li> <li>Public Health working with NHS partners</li> </ul>
Homelessness Assistance	Districts & Boroughs
Community integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Districts &amp; Boroughs</li> <li>Voluntary Peoples Assistance Cell (VPAC)</li> </ul>
Administering £350 payments to sponsors	Districts & Boroughs

### How the process is working

- We are emailing sponsors daily with initial information and links to other guidance and support (see example initial email attached). The email includes the DBS paperwork and an outline of how the DBS process works. Out of the 350 contacts made, over 200 have already returned their DBS paperwork.
- We are asking sponsors to notify us when visas have been issued, permission to travel granted and their guests arrive. There is no other means by which to capture this information currently, though the government data provided by DLUHC is improving.
- Once we are notified of a guest's arrival, arrangements are made to pay the interim **£200 subsistence payment** in Paypoint vouchers to avoid any delay waiting for bank accounts to be opened. The first batch of payments were submitted earlier this week for those who have arrived. The payments go to the guest not the sponsor.
- Districts and Boroughs will soon complete a remote check that the sponsor accommodation exists and is linked to the sponsor details.
- Districts and Boroughs are following common processes for checks of the sponsor property to ensure that it is safe and appropriate. The Government guidance on property checks is not clear in some areas and so housing officers and/or

# Hertfordshire Strategic Migration Steering Group

## Ukraine Briefing 01/04/2022

Environmental Health Officers are looking to pragmatically fill in the gaps. The property checks can and where possible be carried out before the guests arrive.

- County will lead with the welfare checks once guests have arrived, with Children's Services colleagues leading on the visits to properties where the guests include children. The processes for arranging visits and agreeing escalation pathways are being worked on at pace.
- We are awaiting further guidance on the triggers for the £350 optional 'thank you' payments to the sponsors, but these will be made by Districts and Boroughs and will be monthly in arrears.
- We are also awaiting further guidance on the re-matching process if a placement breaks down or guests need to be moved from a property due to safeguarding or accommodation suitability concerns.
- Discussions are underway around how best to manage those presenting to Districts and Boroughs as homeless. We are aware that there have already been isolated incidents of this across the districts and those concerned have arrived on Family visas.

### **Data: what we know**

- The latest data indicates that 350 sponsor households across Hertfordshire have been matched with guests.
- It should be noted that a sponsor has simply been matched with a guest(s) - this does not mean that a visa will be issued or that the sponsor will pass the initial DBS checks.
- This all only relates to the Homes for Ukraine Visa Scheme. We have no visibility of arrivals under the Families Scheme or via different routes – including a small number of Ukrainians staying in a hotel in Elstree.
- As far as we are aware 3 groups have arrived with their sponsors in Hertfordshire, through the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, totalling 7 people. This information comes directly from the sponsors in reply to the email (details below) that we send them once we have been notified that they have been added to the system.
- The data is still an issue with duplicate records and so it is very difficult to confirm actual numbers expected to arrive, but we are analysing the data to see if we can establish the number of households that are expecting children to arrive as part of their group.
- Data Sharing Agreements between County and Districts are being finalised.

### **Funding**

# Hertfordshire Strategic Migration Steering Group

## Ukraine Briefing 01/04/2022

The £10,500 per guest will be paid to County with arrangements made with Districts and Boroughs to cover their costs associated with the Home for Ukraine scheme.

### **Communications**

The dedicated webpage for Ukrainians arriving in Hertfordshire '[Ukraine Support in Hertfordshire](#)' has information translated into Ukrainian. We have enlisted the help of a local Hertfordshire Ukrainian, who has recently welcomed his sister and nephew under the Family Visa Scheme to advise on the website content.

We are communicating with the sponsors from the [h4ukraine@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:h4ukraine@hertfordshire.gov.uk) email address and we will be providing them with a further update on the accommodation and welfare checks in the coming days. This update will advise the sponsors that:

*'You must make sure that your home meets certain safety standards including having a gas safety certificate and smoke detectors on each floor. Please visit the FAQ page <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-scheme-frequently-asked-questions> to see exactly what the requirements are to prevent delays. Please be aware, your home will have to undergo an inspection by a Council Officer to checks against the standards and they will be in contact shortly to arrange this. If your home does not meet the standards, you may be asked to make the necessary improvements'.*

A more localised Welcome Leaflet is being developed and will be shared with sponsors in due course.

The email address for general Ukraine enquiries is [ukrainesupport@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:ukrainesupport@hertfordshire.gov.uk) where we are logging and replying to general offers of support for those arriving and all answering any Ukraine related questions. We will also contact guests from this email account once they start to arrive in numbers.

# Hertfordshire Strategic Migration Steering Group

## Ukraine Briefing 01/04/2022

Example email to Hertfordshire sponsors

*Dear Homes for Ukraine Sponsor,*

I am contacting you on-behalf of Hertfordshire County Council and your local District/Borough Council because we have been notified of your match under the Homes for Ukraine Visa Scheme. At present, we are working at pace with partners to set-up the processes and support systems that will help you and those arriving in your household.

You are hopefully aware that there are accommodation and safeguarding checks that need to be carried and we will be in touch separately to confirm how these will be carried out.

### **Matched Arrivals**

We would be very grateful if you could reply to this email once those you are sponsoring have arrived with you to confirm the following:

- Full Name(s) and date(s) of birth of who has arrived,
- The date that their visa(s) were issued,
- The date that they arrived at your home.

We can then cross-refer this with the information we have received from the Government and update visa and location statuses. Please note that unfortunately we do not have information on any outstanding visa applications.

### **Subsistence Payments**

Once those you are sponsoring have arrived, we will make a £200 subsistence payment per person, which will allow them to buy emergency items whilst they register for benefits.

The subsistence payments will take the form of Paypoint vouchers that can be sent to the lead individual of those who have arrived by either text or email. We should have this information on record, but if not, we may need to contact you to request these details.

More information on Paypoint, including locations can be found at:

[PayPoint | Retail payments & services](#)

### **DBS Checks**

As part of the Homes for Ukraine Scheme all over 16-year-olds residing (excluding guests) in your home must complete a DBS check. If those arriving with you include children under the age of 16 or any vulnerable adults, then all residents must indicate on the forms the relevant Enhanced DBS check. Otherwise please select a basic DBS check. The DBS checks are free of charge and will be processed by Hertfordshire County Council under the terms of a license agreement with Atlantic Data Ltd.

# Hertfordshire Strategic Migration Steering Group

## Ukraine Briefing 01/04/2022

Please find attached the proforma application with approved list of ID documents and consent form to allow us to process the application on your behalf. Individual DBS applications and consent forms must be completed for each member of the sponsor household who will be 16+ at the time of sponsoring a Ukrainian citizen into their home.

To manage your DBS application as easily as possible, please complete the attached DBS Application proforma, sign the DBS application consent form and return them by email to [HertsDBS@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:HertsDBS@hertfordshire.gov.uk) as soon as possible.

Once we have received the completed forms one of the Safe Staffing Team will contact you to arrange a Microsoft Teams call to enable us to carry out a Virtual Identity check. This will allow you an opportunity to safely present your chosen identity documents without the need to copy or post your chosen evidence.

The Safe Staffing Team are here to assist with your application and will be available Monday to Friday between 10am and 3pm either by telephone 01992 555896 or by email [HertsDBS@Hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:HertsDBS@Hertfordshire.gov.uk) to answer any of your questions.

### **Benefits**

Arrangements have been made for those arriving from Ukraine to have immediate access to benefits. For Universal Credit please follow the link below:

[Universal Credit online](#)

For advice on other benefits please click here:

[Browse: Benefits - GOV.UK](#)

Translation services are available to help new arrivals with phone applications (0800 328 5644), with Work Coaches in DWP Jobcentres on hand to support people making claims online. DWP staff are also delivering additional face-to-face assistance to those who need it – including tailored support to find work and advice on benefit eligibility – and will continue to do so.

### **Further Advice**

Further advice is available from local Citizen Advice Bureaus and online at:

[Citizens Advice](#)

There is a very helpful guide available at the link below (please note that this is a general guide for new refugees and is not specific to those arriving from Ukraine):

[Welcome: a guide for new refugees](#)

# Hertfordshire Strategic Migration Steering Group

## Ukraine Briefing 01/04/2022

You may find the following Hertfordshire County Council webpage, that we will continue to update as more information becomes available, helpful:

[www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/ukraine](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/ukraine)

The Government has published advice for those matched under this Scheme:

[Moving to the UK if you're from Ukraine](#)

Thank you for your kindness and for supporting the Homes for Ukraine Scheme. We will stay in touch over the coming weeks as we endeavour to provide both you and those you are sponsoring with further advice and support.

**Finally, just to recap we need from you the Matched Arrivals notifications and for the DBS paperwork to be submitted as soon as possible.**