

## Report of the Cabinet Member for Public Health, Communities and Equality

### Introduction

I will be reporting as follows for Full Council on 26 May 2022:

#### 1. By Councillor Wrigley as follows:

On the Homes for Ukraine Scheme across Devon, highlighting the numbers of families arrived in each area; the number still waiting for visas, especially visas for children; the support to be provided by Devon, including the provision of school places at the most appropriate local school; and the split of funding and responsibility between County and the Districts.

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### Planned arrivals

The Department for Levelling Up Housing & Communities shares data with DCC that indicates the number of sponsors in Devon who have been matched with guests travelling from Ukraine. Subject to successful visa application, currently 1603 people are identified to potentially arrive in Devon as part of the scheme (938 adults/665 children) hosted by 640 sponsors/properties. These numbers have remained relatively static for a few weeks.

### Actual arrivals

Confirming actual arrivals data is complicated by the fact that local councils are reliant on sponsors notifying them that their guests have arrived under the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

Government data provides us with the following information (available at [Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme: Visa data by country, upper and lower tier local authority - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/ukraine-sponsorship-scheme) )

Area	Visa applications	Visas issued	Arrivals
East Devon	233	202	87
Exeter	152	135	62
Mid Devon	173	131	70
North Devon	110	94	60
South Hams	160	140	75
Teignbridge	203	192	112
Torridge	105	89	56
West Devon	128	117	69

In addition, some people have travelled to Devon as part of the Ukraine Family scheme. The numbers now arriving in UK through this scheme is slowing significantly. It is difficult to confirm the exact numbers who have arrived through this route locally as currently that information is not available to local authorities, but it is likely to be around 200 people.

### School places

There have been 214 applications for school places to date with 59 pupils confirmed to be on roll (although we anticipate this might be higher).

Funding will go directly to schools for additional students at the following rates:

- Early years (ages 2 to 4) - £3,000
- Primary (ages 5 -11) - £6,580
- Secondary (ages 11-18) - £8,755

### **Support provided by Team Devon**

We have taken a partnership approach, working closely with our Team Devon District and City Council colleagues, to deliver our shared local responsibilities under the scheme. Our work involves;

- Establishing an operational team within the DCC Communities team to oversee the overall process and to manage the flow of sponsor/guest/application data.
- Enhanced DBS checks (on all within the Sponsor household over 16 years) carried out by DCC Safer Recruitment Team
- Property checks on all sponsor households delivered by district council teams
- Background checks of Childrens and Adults service systems are undertaken to highlight any concerns regarding individual applications and their suitability
- A decision-making panel including Childrens and Adults services, district colleagues and facilitated by the Communities team has been established to consider potential 'failed' sponsor applications
- District councils are making payments to guests on arrival and monthly payments to sponsors
- Initial 'welcome' visits (required by Government) are delivered through district commissioned VCSE organisations (and some district council teams) who in turn will develop a level of signposting to key services and some wraparound support.
- Children's Services have taken a local policy decision to visit all arrivals that include children 0-8 years carry out 'Infant and children's health and wellbeing checks'
- An emergent ESOL offer has been established across Devon drawing on existing resources at colleges and with Learn Devon alongside a range of local community offers from groups and individuals

### **Funding split**

Government guidance describes the funding available to support the resettlement of the Ukrainian guests, which is as follows:

- £10,500 per individual arrival (to include £350 per month to the homeowner/sponsor and an initial £200 for each guest)

Latest guidance confirms that drawdown will be quarterly in arrears to top tier authorities and relies on accurate data returns. Funding will be top sliced by County to cover central costs (maximum is expected to be 20% of funds), then the rest would be distributed to District and City councils- with a contingent amount for homelessness presentations.

DCC is producing a budget for the first 6 months of the scheme to show the costs we are incurring – direct staff costs and direct other costs e.g. DBS and any commissioned services such as ESOL. This should inform the % top slice.

**Councillor Roger Croad**  
Cabinet Member for Public Health, Communities and Equality