



Hampshire  
County Council

# Homes for Ukraine

# Homes for Ukraine

- Members of the public can apply for a Ukrainian family to live in their home for at least 6 months
- If accepted by the Home Office, the Ukrainian family are issued a visa with their host as their sponsor
- Local Authorities are responsible for implementing the scheme locally, but these are private arrangements
- Ukrainians receive £200 welcome payment on arrival
- Hosts receive £350 per month thank you payment (per accommodation)
- Accommodation and DBS checks required
- Local Authority receives funding equating to £10,500 per refugee, to fund all support services. This is shared with district & borough councils.
- Additional education funding available for school-aged children

# Responsibilities (HfU)

- All existing checks under HfU scheme (accommodation checks, DBS checks on all household members aged 16+)
- Safe and well checks on arrival
- Report information for uploading to portal
- Arranging host payments

# Homes for Ukraine – unaccompanied minors

- The HfU scheme has been opened up so that hosts can apply to sponsor children who are travelling to the UK without a parent or guardian
- Hosts must have a relationship with the family that predates the conflict
- Local Authorities can agree host arrangement with sponsors previously unknown to the family in exceptional circumstances e.g. if the child is travelling with a relative who will be the child's primary carer
- Current HfU – Local Authority checks completed after applications are accepted. Unaccompanied minors – visas will not be issued until LAs confirm that the arrangement has been assessed as suitable.
- Anticipated numbers are unknown at this stage.

# Homes for Ukraine – unaccompanied minors

- Children will receive leave to remain for 3 years
- Children will be able to access all public funds/services, including benefits, education, healthcare, employment (as appropriate under UK law)
- Hosts need to commit to sponsoring for 3 years, or until the child turns 18, whichever is sooner. If the child turns 18 during the 3 years, sponsors are responsible for supporting the child to become independent
- Host thank you payments are available for the full 3 years (or until the child turns 18, if this happens between 12 and 36 months)
- Assessment of hosts BEFORE visa is issued

# Homes for Ukraine – unaccompanied minors

- Establish the nature of the relationship with the child and the sponsor
- Ensure that sponsors understand their responsibilities under the scheme
- Ensure that sponsors and parents have discussed and agreed arrangements and expectations
- Visit the child within 24 hours of arrival (OOH to support if the child arrives at the weekend)
- Private fostering regs where the criteria is met
- Comparable assessments and checks for children where private fostering criteria is not met
- The Home Office will seek parental consent

# Rematching

- “Rematching should only be used where it is unviable or unsafe for the sponsorship relationship to continue”
- Housing needs assessment completed by district & borough councils
- If criteria is met and rematching is appropriate, districts & boroughs co-ordinate a rematch
- List of Expressions of Interest available to districts & boroughs
- Refer back to HCC to complete all checks and arrange thank you payments



# Rematching - unaccompanied minors

If the sponsorship arrangement breaks down, any rematching needs to be led by the parent/guardian, and the same criteria will apply (must be a pre-existing relationship, assessments must be completed before the arrangement is agreed). If a new sponsor cannot be identified, the child will need to be accommodated under Section 20.

This will be overseen by Children's Services (level 4 social care)

# Journey so far

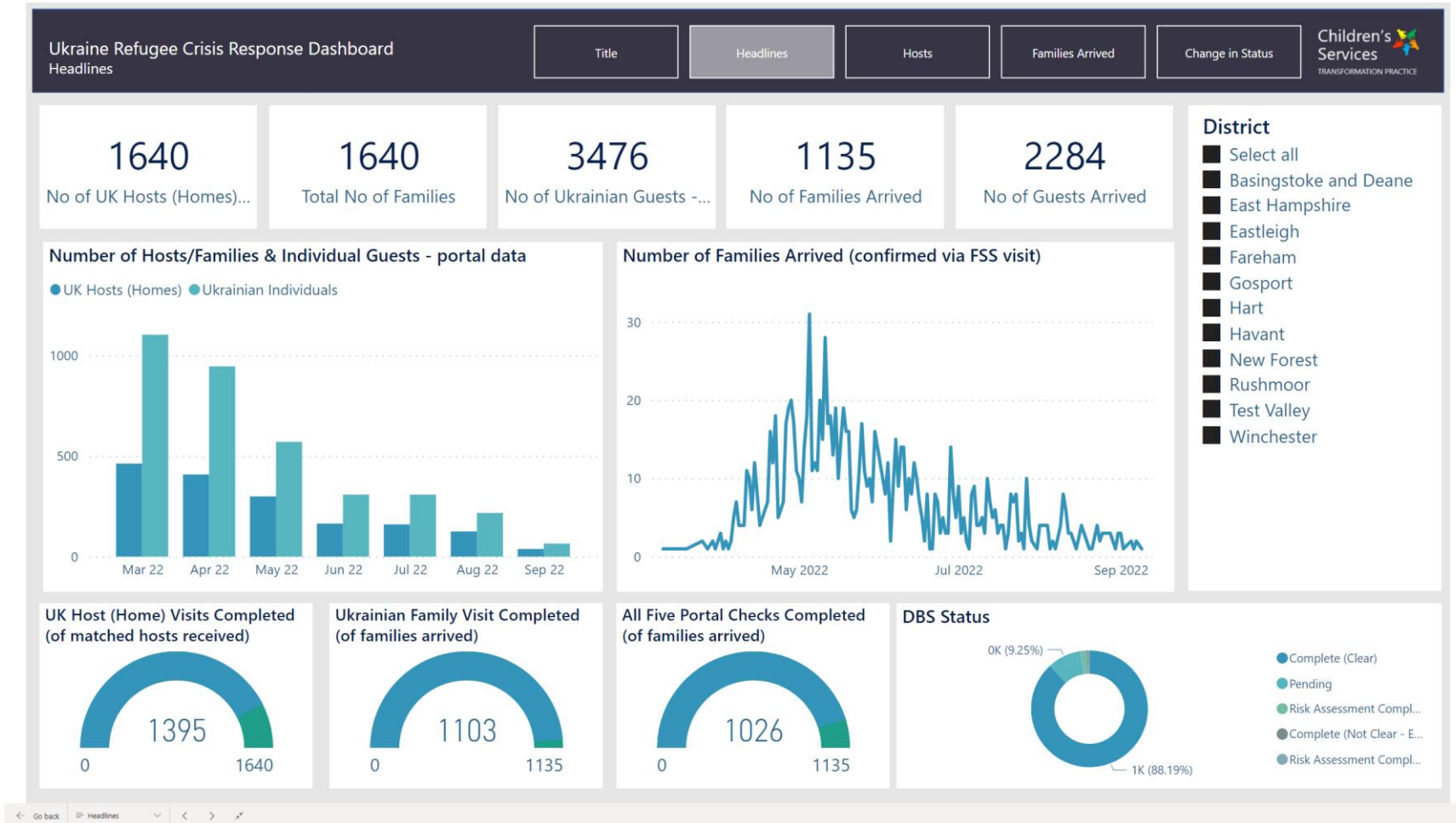
- 14 March 2022 Government announced the Homes for Ukraine scheme
- 25 March 2022 First list of names arrived on the portal
- 15 July 2022 Government announced that existing applications for unaccompanied minors would be progressed
- 10 August 2022 HfU unaccompanied minors scheme opened to new applications

As of 6 September 2022, Hampshire had been asked to assess 26 proposed sponsors for unaccompanied minors.

# Journey so far continued....

- Processes have been created and rolled out – accommodation checks, providing welcome payments, providing host payments, initiating DBS checks, collating information to report back to central government to release funding
- Some lessons learnt from Afghan response which informed planning
- 3-month bus pass offered to all guests (almost 2000 issued as of 14<sup>th</sup> September 2022)
- Community support group hubs run by district & borough councils, supported by library services, and by FSS on request
- Unaccompanied Minors processes have been created and are being tested with the first cohort of children

# Headline numbers (14 September 2022)



# Partnership working

Project management support provided by HCC

- Project workstream – oversight of all project areas
- Finance workstream - £200 welcome payments, guest thank you payments
- Community & support workstream – co-ordinating offers of support from all agencies including voluntary and private agencies.

Workstream members include Childrens Services, district & borough councils (housing), CAB, school admissions, voluntary organisations, finance, comms, library services, Fire & Rescue service.

Ukraine grant is being used to support partner agency activity where this falls within the scope of the purpose of the grant.

# Challenges

- Limited time to create and implement complex processes
- Frequent changes and updates to the scheme, and to the guidance
- “Laying tracks as we go”, while using lessons learnt from Afghan response
- Significant pressure on existing services, especially FSS, education, and housing
- High levels of public and political interest
- Co-ordinating and working with multi agency partners
- Public expectations have been high and sometimes unmet
- Use of social media to create matches and form support groups has led to some misinformation being shared widely
- Housing options when guests leave their hosting arrangements

# Case studies

A guest was distressed that she could not access a language course as it was too far away and would take them around 2 hours to get to this course. She said that without learning English and accessing this course that she would struggle to find work. The FSS worker discussed with the guest that she would email adult learning and see if we could get a more local course. Adult learning were very helpful and organised with the guest and FSS to gain access to a more local lesson. The guest has since enrolled and is going to start her lessons once lessons re-start.

# Case studies

Working with employers who can offer accommodation and paid work

- A farmer who had accommodation available that he usually offered to seasonal workers. Multi agency response including FSS, police and housing, to ensure that expectations remain clear to all parties, and compliant with the requirements of the scheme. A number of Ukrainians are staying on the farm and are engaged in paid employment there.
- A hotel wished to offer accommodation under the scheme, but only to Ukrainians who wished to be employed at the hotel. This was explored and the arrangement not approved.



# Case studies

Adults and children with high levels of need

- Older child with significant physical disabilities, requiring support with personal care and mobility. Multi agency response to provide equipment, education, and social care support. Initially this was provided within the sponsor's home, with early support and planning from housing to move on to more appropriate accommodation at the earliest opportunity. Some of the Ukraine grant is being used to meet the costs that would otherwise come from children's social care budget.
- Adult with full time care needs linked to learning disability. The hosting arrangement quickly broke down. Adult social care worked with housing and voluntary agencies to identify appropriate housing, and provide a package of care in the community.